

Monday April 22 1996

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 48,533

Linda Grant's extraordinary story of her family

Andrew Wylie, special agent

Media

My mother my child



Big bucks for big books

Robert M...?

Damien Hirst in a spin over canvas junked in skip

Owen Bowcott on a question of art

DAMIEN HIRST was well satisfied with his effort. After all, it helped him to win the prestigious Turner prize last year. Andy Shaw evidently has more exacting standards. He says he threw his canvas away.

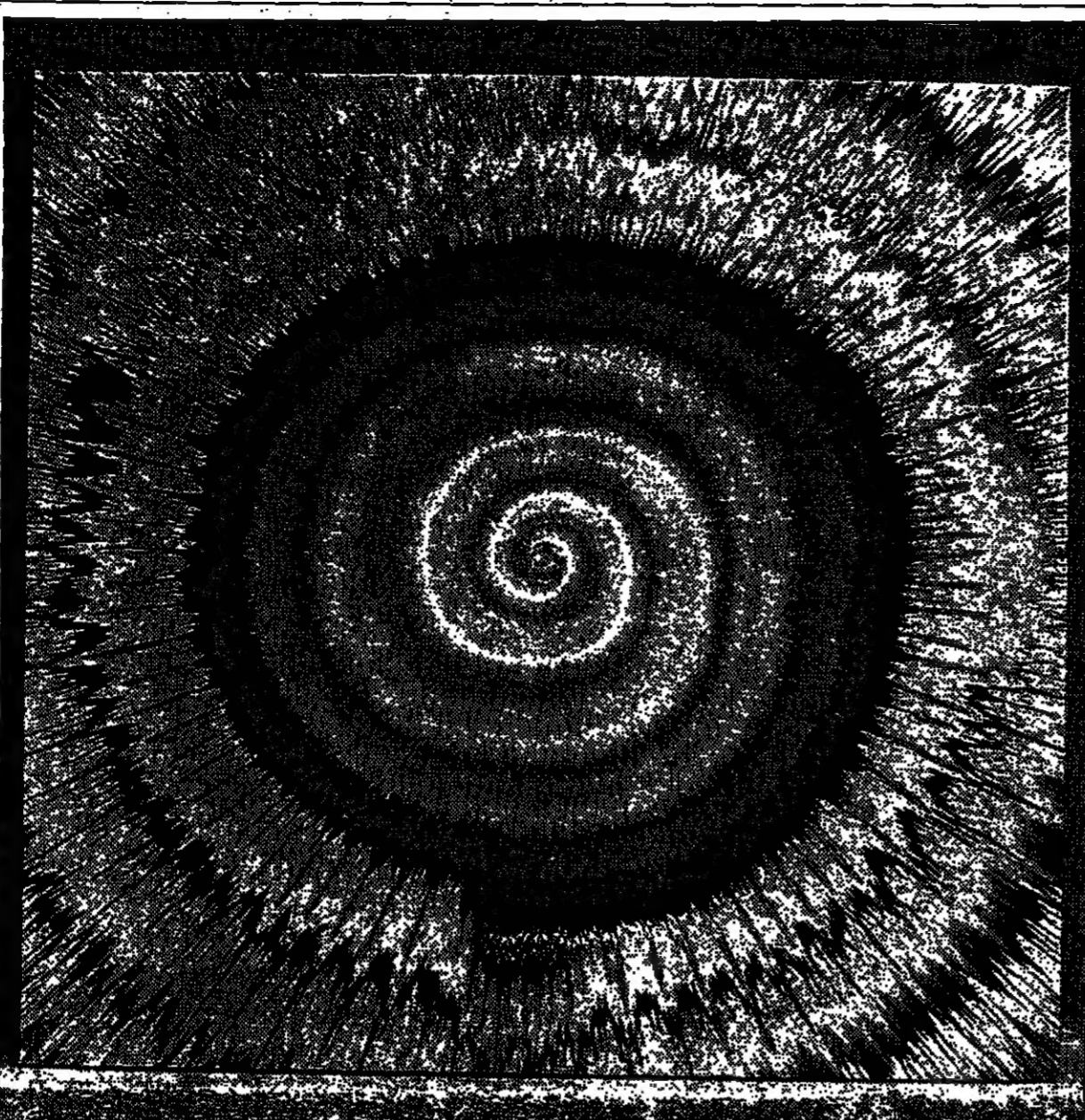
The tale of two artistic reputations began in the unlikely setting of an East End refuse skip. That was where Mr Shaw, whose paintings command up to £3,000, maintains he dumped an unsatisfactory work produced by his favourite technique of pouring acrylic paint on to a spinning surface.

Shortly afterwards an arts graduate, Simon Tyrrell, aged 34, passed along the street in Shoreditch, noticed the work amid the debris and became convinced he had stumbled across an original Damien Hirst. The concrete splatter of thick paint, he believed, was a telltale sign of the best-selling artist. Hirst, better known for a dead sheep floating in a glass tank, has alternatively been praised as a genius or damned as a charlatan.

Either way, he has attracted headlines. Spotting an opportunity, a local gallery owner, Adam Dant, announced he would hold an exhibition entitled "We Found a Painting by Damien Hirst in a Skip". The display was intended to highlight the question of authenticity in art.

"We also have another painting wrapped up in a box where it becomes an object of intangible value," said Mr Dant, the proprietor of the Gallerette in Shoreditch, yesterday. "It's a Pandora's box, a work of art without an artist."

But shortly after sending out his invitations, he received a letter from Hirst's agent, Jay Jopling, demanding corrected cards be distributed pointing out the "misattribution". He eventually complied.



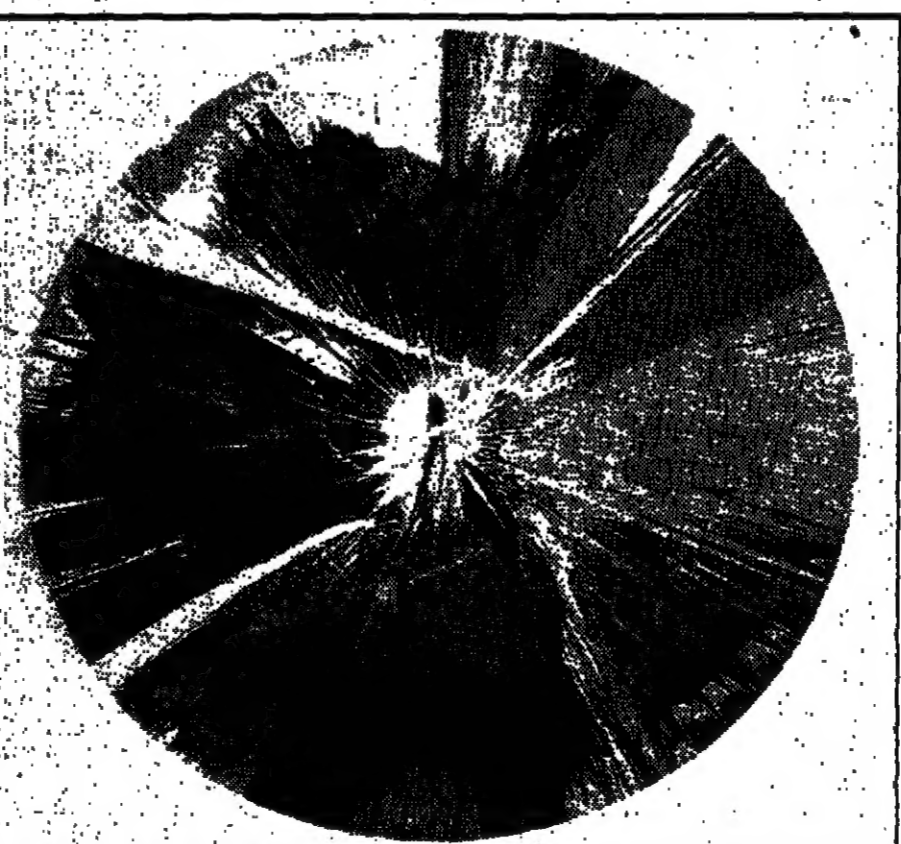
The Andy Shaw canvas taken for a Damien Hirst. It's a question of who's famous and who isn't, says Shaw

The false description also angered Shaw. "The spinning is mine," he insisted yesterday. "I thought it in the rubbish skip, I strive for perfection in my work. Perfection is unobtainable, but I'm close to it. The guy who found my painting can keep it if he wants to."

He added: "It's just a question of who's famous and who isn't. I suppose it's like Darwin's theory of natural selection. I threw the painting out but anything that is strong will survive."

If the painting, entitled Out of Eden and produced by being rotated on a potter's wheel, had been an original Damien Hirst it might have fetched up to £30,000. As a discarded Andy Shaw it would fail to make anything approaching that.

The Gallerette show, Mr Dant said, was intended as a protest against most mainstream museums' policy of purchasing few works by contemporary artists. Shaw, a former painter and admirer of the Turner prize-winning artist, is to exhibit his own paintings at the Gramercy Park Hotel in New York next month. Hirst could not be contacted yesterday.



An original Damien Hirst. His paintings fetch up to £30,000

Brown ups stakes on education

Michael White Political Editor

ABOUT last night the stakes in the controversy over child benefit for older teenagers, by admitting that its proposed national educational maintenance allowance might take money from wealthy parents of children aged 16 to 18 — but only to use it to help poorer children stay at school.

In the propaganda battle with John Major's Cabinet over equality of opportunity, the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, hit back against charges that he is planning to destroy middle class perks, by revealing that only 50 per cent of children aged 16 to 18 actually qualify for child benefit under current rules.

Up to 25 per cent of the money goes to mothers whose children are at fee-paying schools. "The mother of a sixth-former at Eton or Harrow receives it from 16 until 19... In this case, child benefit is a subsidy for the school fees of the wealthy, rather than an incentive to assist the education of the very poor," Mr Brown writes in an article today for the Guardian.

With all parties gearing up for local elections on May 2 — and the threat of a general election at any time — both sides yesterday underlined how much is at stake in the weeks ahead. On GMTV, the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, warned Tory rightwingers that there were no easy tax-and-spend cuts that would protect "the social fabric".

Across at the BBC, his Labour counterpart, John Prescott, on Breakfast with Frost, gently reminded shadow colleagues like Clare Short — also in trouble over tax rises last week — that once they had "come to a collective agreement about something, you have a responsibility to observe it". More revealingly, he referred to "Clare" in the same breath as "Heseltine".

Mr Heseltine later tried to seize upon Mr Prescott's confirmation that — in Sir David Frost's words — "some people would pay less tax and quite a lot of people would pay more tax as proof that Tony Blair has "a large middle class tax



national maintenance grants for poorer sixth form students, which range from £100 a year in Norfolk to £1,200 in Devon.

Between them, these "unequal opportunities are an affront to those of us who feel passionately about social justice," writes Mr Brown.

One shadow minister said last night that the idea was to reconfigure existing resources to improve upon child benefit for this age group — as well as to provide fairer access to higher education for adults who have dropped out of school. "The last thing I want to do is to deprive people, especially those from low-income backgrounds, of the incentive to stay on at school."

A further measure of the growing pressure on Labour to divulge more tax details came yesterday in a Sunday Times straw poll among 60 backbench MPs, which purported to reveal "serious demands for middle-income earners to face higher tax bills" by way of a restored 50 per cent tax rate.

When asked at what level it should start, 26 MPs said 240,000 a year, 33 said 250,000 and 15 said 260,000, though whether that was gross or taxable income was not made clear. Some 26 MPs backed the current 40 per cent top tax rate, while two MPs wanted a top rate of 60 per cent.

That did not stop the Tory chairman, Dr Brian Mahwinney, saying the poll confirmed "what Mr Blair is trying to hide — that Labour is the enemy of middle-income earners."

Gordon Brown, page 5; Angela Phillips, 22 page 13

Longleat heir injured as Delhi bomb kills 17

Sue Quinn

THE HEIR to one of Britain's most aristocratic families was recovering in hospital in India last night after narrowly surviving a bomb blast which killed at least 17 people, including his British girlfriend and business partner.

Viscount Weymouth, aged 21, the son of the Marquess of Bath, was among almost 40 people injured in the powerful explosion which devastated a backpackers' hostel in the crowded heart of New Delhi on Saturday night.

The Foreign Office last night named the British man killed as Crinan Wild, in his 20s. The name of Viscount

Weymouth's girlfriend was not released.

An injured Briton was identified as marketing consultant Cathi Sones, aged 31, of South Croydon, south London.

Two separatist groups which claimed responsibility for the bomb said it was intended to punish rivals and to stop elections in Kashmir next month.

At least eight foreigners — Nigerian, French and British — were among those who died in the hostel in Paharganj, near Connaught Place, New Delhi's central square.

A joint statement from the Islamic Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and the Khalistan Liberation Force said the bombing was part of an attempt to stop elections in Jammu and Kashmir,

the only Muslim-majority state in predominantly Hindu India. More than 20,000 people have been killed there in a six-year separatist insurgency.

Last night at the family home, Longleat, in Wiltshire, Lord Bath said he was arranging for his son, who suffered head injuries, to return to Britain as soon as possible.

"He is not badly hurt, mostly cuts. But now he is deeply shocked at the loss of dear friends," he said.

Viscount Weymouth — Cecil Wynn — left his studies at University College, London, last autumn to travel to India, where he was establishing a ski resort.

All survivors were believed to have been pulled from the wreckage by yesterday.

Triumph of the unsuitable in stickiest marathon

John Ezzard

"MY BODY is now the best it's been for three years," said Liz McColligan of Britain, achieving a classic triumph over injury by winning in 2 hours, 27 minutes, 54 seconds with a margin of two minutes.

"The most uncomfortable thing is keeping my head on," said a man in a 32lb Save the Rhino costume towards the back of the 27,000-strong pack.

Yesterday's London Marathon displayed — as its founder Chris Brasher said — "the astonishing audacity of the human spirit — the men and women of unsuitable shapes and sizes who manage to complete the course".

This year they managed it in the hottest, stickiest conditions in any of the 16 years during which 300,000 competitors from all parts of the globe have finished the 26-mile event. At noon, the temperature peaked at 21°C (70°F), 4°C higher than the previous hottest in 1986. By 4pm, St John Ambulance had treated 1,938 runners, nearly one in 13 of the field. Twenty runners and nine spectators needed hospital treatment.

Dionicio Ceron, of Mexico, won the men's race in 2:10:00 for an unprecedented third year in succession. He said: "Every victory has a special place in my heart, but I am particularly excited about this one."

It was a delight shared by

those whose victory lay in stretching their courage and endurance. Brian Cleaver, 58, from Walsall, who lost a leg through gangrene at the age of four and competed on crutches, said as he finished: "I slipped on a piece of orange peel but I'm all right." His 16th marathon was for the Alzheimer's Society.

For the oldest entrant, Walter Cayless from Combeinteighhead, near Newton Abbot, Devon, the day was blessedly accident-free. The Dunkirk veteran, nearly 94, was running his fourth marathon in his third, he damaged his false teeth when he was knocked down by a falling advertising hoarding.

McColligan blitz, page 16

Inside Britain

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A decorous day out with Byron's heirs

'What is it that foreigners admire in England? It is tradition, and Byron is part of that tradition. He was honest, straight. But society did not want him here'

Monday sketch



David Ward

A PRACOCK squawked, a daffodil-yellow disc floated easily over a gracious lawn and a small boy in a white shirt smiled with delight. The Hon Charles Richard Gordon Byron was playing with a frisbee in the grounds of the Nottinghamshire estate his poetic ancestor inherited in 1788.

God willing, Charles will eventually inherit the title and become the 14th baron. But he will never live at Newstead Abbey, for George Gordon, the sixth Lord Byron, author of Childe Harold and Don Juan, defender of freedom in Greece, lover of both men and women (including, so it's said, his own half-sister) sold it in 1817 for £34,500.

Robert, the 13th Lord Byron and father of the frisbee

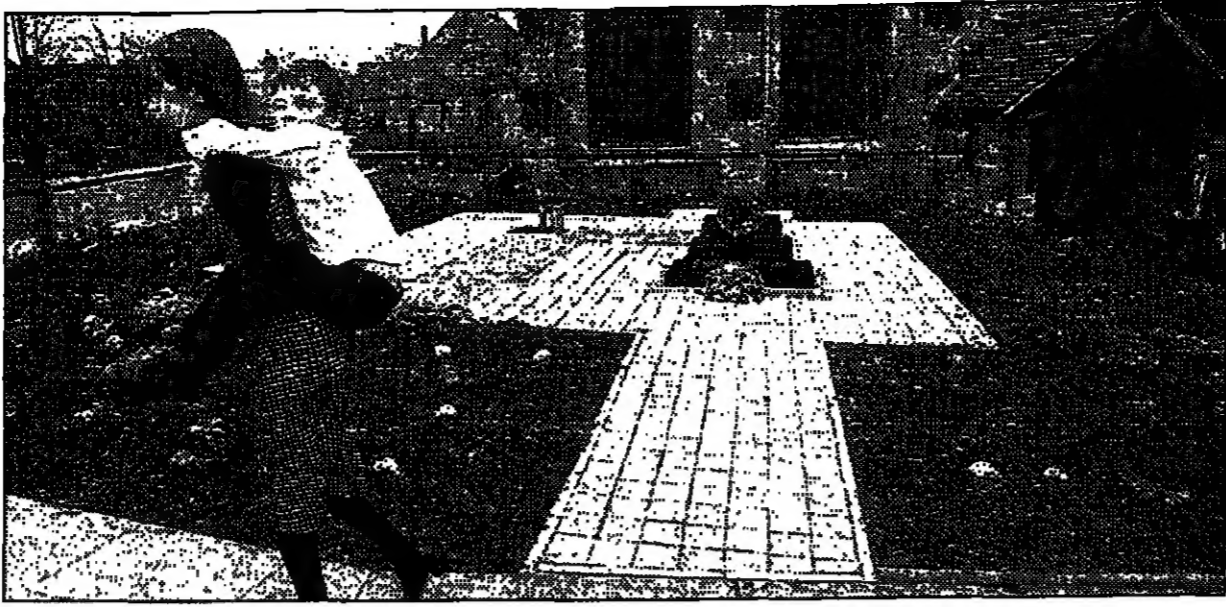
player, is a lawyer and a Conservative rather than a poet and a radical.

He is also president of the Byron Society, the devoted and mainly elderly members of which made their 25th annual pilgrimage to Newstead at the weekend.

The present lord, more content to slither down the ski slopes than swim the Hellespont, said almost apologetically: "Ninety-nine per cent of our lives is most un-Byronic. I had a spate of reading the poems while I was at Cambridge. But now I read more of the prose, especially the letters."

One Byronic pilgrim was in pensive mood. Father Damian Konstantinou, a black-bearded, black-caped Greek Orthodox priest who once served his fellow countrymen in Mansfield and Nottingham, sat on a bench outside the main entrance, drew deeply on a melancholy cigarette and recalled how speakers at the official pilgrimage lunch had touched on Byron's support for the Greek people's struggle for freedom.

No one quoted The Isles of Greece over the tea cream: "Place me on Sunium's marble steep, Where nothing, save the waves and I, May hear our mutual murmur sweep;



Byron children Emily and Charlie in front of the memorial at Hucknall church

There, swan-like, let me sing and die: A land of slaves shall ne'er be mine. Dash down your cup of Samion wine! Father Konstantinou continued: "When I heard the speeches, I felt how heavy it is to be Greek. Greeks have felt isolated and betrayed many times. They fought in the last war everywhere but they made no gains."

Sylvia Parsons, Lord Mayor of Nottingham, and instigator of the priest's sad reflections, had handed over to the Byron Society a copy of a copy of a picture of the house in which Byron had lived in Greece. She spoke feelingly of the poet's radicalism, his defence

of Nottingham's Luddites, his first real Europeans. He did not only travel to different parts of Europe but he was also interested in what happened in those countries, in their literature and language.

For Lucy Edwards, secretary of the Byron Society, the big attraction remains the scandalous egotist and his poetry. She loves *She Walked in Beauty*, from the Hebrew Mak-

odias, and *There Was a Sound of Revelry By Night*, the poet's description of the ball on the eve of Waterloo.

She also loves Newstead and first worked there 60 years ago as a pupil librarian. "I got myself totally involved and submerged in Byroniana," she revealed, eyes gleaming.

Back on his bench, Father Konstantinou perked up when asked to consider why Byron was honoured more outside his own country than within it. "What is it that foreigners admire in England? It is tradition — and Byron is part of that tradition. Byron was honest, straight. But society did not want him to be here. He was expelled."

"The British have other explorations than Romanticism. But many Mediterranean peoples are romantic, our religion is romantic. Byron was a bit naughty — but this is a Greek style."

It was time to say goodbye, to tour the house, given to the Byrons by Henry VIII. The poet received it from the disgraced fifth baron who kept a herd of tame crickets which would come to heel at his call. Grief-stricken, they left the house for ever when their master died in 1788.

Byron upheld the family's peevish reputation. He kept a bear, a wolf, a Newfoundland

UK switch to landmine ban likely

David Fairhall Defence Correspondent

B RITAIN looks set to change its policy on the production and use of anti-personnel landmines in favour of a complete ban.

The unexpected U-turn comes as the United Nations launches a fresh effort to control a worldwide plague of 100 million landmines that are killing and maiming 2,000 people a month, mostly civilians. The British shift has been prompted in part by signs that the United States is preparing to renounce these weapons.

A spokesman at the Ministry of Defence said a Commons statement on the issue

could be expected "shortly".

If confirmed, the British policy shift will be widely welcomed by organisations such as the International Red Cross and Oxfam which have campaigned for a ban. The UN conference which is reviewing a 1980 agreement on landmine use resumes in Geneva today.

Until now the British military has insisted that anti-personnel mines are a legitimate weapon of war. Yet several Nato allies, including Belgium, Holland, Norway, and most recently, Germany, have renounced them. The Pentagon is also reviewing its policy, spurred on by the danger facing US troops in the Balkans, where up to 6 million mines are thought to have been laid.

The chief of the US joint chiefs of staff, General John Shalikashvili, has been reported to be personally in-



A Cambodian landmine victim. Mines kill or maim 2,000 people a month worldwide

Cuts mean prisoners will lose TVs in cells

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE Home Secretary, Michael Howard, is to give notice to prisoners in 20 jails that they will lose televisions in their cells in six months' time, despite recognising that they contribute to "order and control" and save staff costs.

Leaked briefing documents for the Home Secretary also show it is expected that cuts in prison budgets will lead to the closure of other parts of the jail system because of "infrastructure failure".

The document warns that "any loss of accommodation will mean a significant risk of using police cells". MPs have repeatedly condemned the use of police cells, which cost £300 a night for each prisoner.

The documents were drawn up for a meeting three weeks ago between Mr Howard and the

prison service unions. As well as advising the Home Secretary what he could tell them, they also contain sections marked: In Confidence (Not For Use in Meeting).

They show that Mr Howard would not tell the prison service unions.

□ That there should be no public announcement about the removal of in-cell televisions until after the strategy has been implemented. No new convicted prisoners will be allowed in-cell TV with effect from this month, with all others to be given six months' notice of their removal from April. It says that the pace of change reflects "Prison Service advice on issues such as the risk to good order".

Convicted prisoners at Garth prison, Lancashire, and at Manchester Strangeways will keep their televisions for longer because "more complex issues" are involved. Prisoners who have not been convicted can have TVs in their cells at their own expense because of their legal status.

□ That most big modernisation schemes are to be dropped from the 1996/97 programme — those at Bristol, Brixton, Dartmoor, Exeter, Leeds, Liverpool, North Sea

Camp, Pentonville, Preston, Swansea, Wakefield, Wandsworth, Wetherby and Wormwood Scrubs. Maintenance spending will be reduced to a minimum.

□ That proposals from governments suggest that 60 per cent of prisons will make cuts in their education programmes.

□ That just under half the prisons are planning to reduce the number of probation staff they employ. "The reduction in posts in 1996-97 is currently estimated at 65, which is about 10 per cent of the number of probation officers (about 630) employed in prisons."

□ About 2,800 prison service jobs are to go over the next three years as part of the 13 per cent cut in prison service budgets.

□ At the same time, 80 accountants are to be recruited, as financial control is inadequate in prisons.

Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "This shows that ministerial objectives can only be reached at a cost, and that promising prison activities and security."

14 US generals have declared a ban 'humane and militarily responsible'

could be expected "shortly".

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The chief of the US joint chiefs of staff, General John Shalikashvili, has been reported to be personally in-

clined to eliminate such weapons. Gulf war commander General Norman Schwarzkopf and the former Nato supreme commander, General John Galvin, are among 14 retired US generals who have signed an open letter to President Clinton declaring a total ban "not only humane but also militarily responsible".

British diplomats accepted that Britain's former stance opposing a ban had come under great pressure. But one source suggested that the prevailing view at the Geneva conference favoured a more pragmatic approach.

The aim of the meeting is to revise the 1980 inhumane weapons convention to tighten curbs on the design, sale and use of anti-personnel mines.

Given the objections raised by China, and to a lesser extent by India, Pakistan and Russia, Britain believes it better at the conference to concentrate on limited objectives that may attract universal support, such as prohibiting non-detectable mines — if necessary modifying existing stocks by attaching metal strips to plastic casings — and encouraging the use of mines which either self-destruct or deactivate themselves after a certain time.

The Labour Party, whose defence spokesman, David Clark, recently visited Cambodia to assess the problem for himself, is committed to banning all exports of anti-personnel mines from Britain, not just as at present of the "dumb" kind which remain active indefinitely.

"I have just returned from a visit to Cambodia where I saw how the post-war reconstruction was being held up by landmines," Mr Clark said. "I saw hundreds of people, children, women and soldiers, without limbs because of the ravages of landmines."

He said Labour was also calling on Nato to devote a proportion of its science budget to developing "de-mining" techniques.

Maestro's party pieces prove serious fun

Review

Tim Ashley

MENUHIN IS 80 Royal Albert Hall

ON SATURDAY Yehudi Menuhin held his 80th birthday party at the Albert Hall. It was quite a night — that rare thing, a royal gala that managed not to be glitzy, and in which serious music making combined with fun. Significantly, the serious music making involved Menuhin himself. The frivolity was other people's doing.

The grand finale was Haydn's Toy Symphony, conducted by Yan Pascal Tortelier, with a plethora of names wielding the eponymous toys. Humphrey Burton, draped in a football scarf, swung a rat-

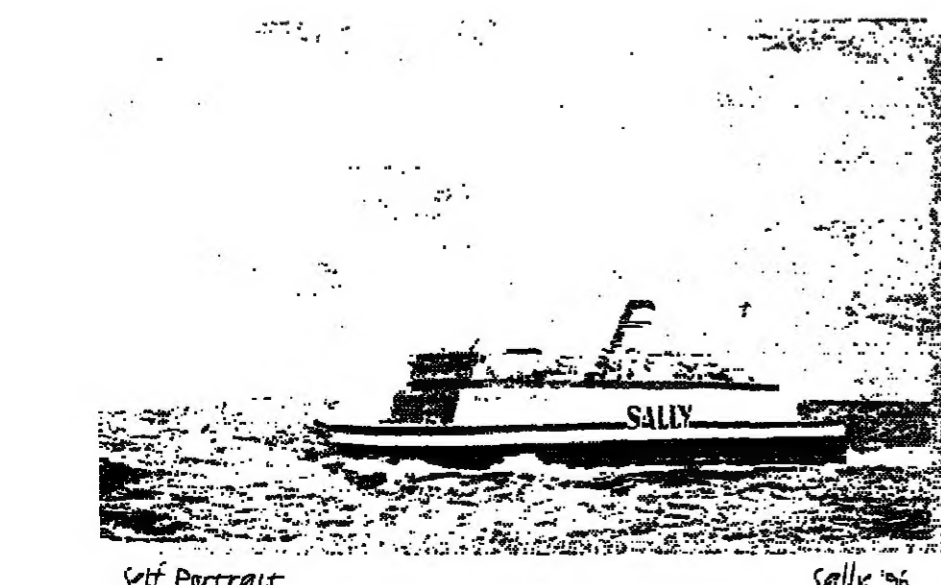
tle, Michael Tilson-Thomas, looking acutely embarrassed, fluttered alongside Samuel Ramey as a nightingale. Victor Hochhauser struck a triangle, Anne-Sophie Mutter was a flirtatious cuckoo. Rostropovich tooted on a toy trumpet. It was great fun — but throughout its course, Menuhin was nowhere to be seen. He reappeared in the royal box, after the symphony was over, to listen to the assembled crowd sing Happy Birthday. His last act, at the end of a wonderful concert, was to plead for an end to hatred between nations. It was a moment which emphasised his intense seriousness both as a man and as a musician.

In an age in which both juvenes prodigies and aged geniuses are becoming increasingly fashionable, Menuhin manages to defeat both stereotypes. His early

recordings are mythically famous for their virtuosity, yet it is the emotional maturity of expression that, on repeated listening, continues to impress. As a conductor, he now delivers performances that have a spontaneity rarely found in men half his age.

From my seat, I was able to watch his face as he conducted. His eyes shone and a serene smile played about his lips as he and the RPO accompanied Anne-Sophie Mutter in what proved to be a great performance of Mozart's 5th Violin Concerto. The same youthfulness suffused his tender account of the Enigma Variations, a performance that got to the heart of what the music is about, a quiet expression of affection and friendship.

The spontaneity of Menuhin's musicianship continues to belie his image as an establishment figure. He is one of music's great progressives.



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"At some point on this too. The 30 years, because that's why I finally communicate"



Robbie Coltrane at the BAFTA awards, where he picked up the best TV actor award for the third year running for his role in Cracker, again judged best drama series PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Emma Thompson heads British film awards

Andrew Cull
Media Correspondent

Emma Thompson's lavish film version of *Sense and Sensibility* won three British Academy Awards last night as the entertainment world continued its love affair with Jane Austen.

BBC's adaptation of *Persepolis* captured one of the top TV honours at the ceremony, Britain's equivalent of Hollywood's Oscars.

But BBC's *Fride and Prejudice*, which attracted audiences of over 12 million and had been expected to pick up three TV awards, suffered a disappointment. Actress Jennifer Ehle was the programme's sole winner.

Costume drama dominated many of the honours from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, with the Channel 4-funded film, *The Madness*

BAFTA winners

- Best Film: *Sense and Sensibility*.
- Award for outstanding British film: *The Madness of King George*.
- Best actress: Emma Thompson (*Sense and Sensibility*).
- Best actor: Nigel Hawthorne (*The Madness of King George*).
- People's vote: Favourite film: *Braveheart*.

Television

- Best single drama: *Persepolis* (BBC2).
- Best drama series: *Cracker* (ITV).
- Best drama series: *Politician's Wife* (Channel 4).
- Best talk show: *Panorama: Interview with HRH the Princess of Wales* (BBC1).
- People's vote: Favourite television: *The X Files* (BBC2).

Oscar last month for the screenplay.

The TV awards were again captured by ITV's *Cracker*, best drama series for the second year running. Robbie Coltrane was best actor for the third successive year. This year he beat off competition from Colin Firth, tipped for his role as Mr Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*.

Channel 4's *The Politician's Wife*, which starred Trevor Eve as a philandering Tory minister and Juliet Stevenson as his revenge-seeking wife, best *Fride and Prejudice* to be named best drama series.

The *Panorama* interview with the Princess of Wales, which attracted last year's largest television audience, of 23 million, won the best talk show category, beating *Clive Anderson* and ITV's daytime duo, *Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan*.

Panorama reporter Mar-

tin Bashir collected his award in front of an audience at London's Theatre Royal that included the Princess Royal. BAFTA's president.

Accepting the award, Mr Bashir, already honoured by the Royal Television Society and the Broadcasting Press Guild, said: "This is a fantastic honour... It is also recognition for what the editor, Eve Hewlett, has brought to the programme. He also thanked BBC press officers for shielding him from "tricky" media attention.

Jeremy Paxman, the acerbic presenter of *Newsnight*, won the Richard Dimbleby award for the year's most important personal contribution to factual television.

Best Screenplay (Adapted): *Transposing John Hodge*.

Best Supporting Actress: Kate Winslet (*Sense and Sensibility*).

Best Supporting Actor: Tim Ron (*Rob Roy*).

Best Film Not in the English Language: *Il Postino*.

Television Awards

Best Factual Series: *The Death of Yegor Breshnev* (BBC2).

Best Light Entertainment: *The Mrs Merton Show* (BBC2).

Best Comedy: *Father Ted* (Channel 4).

Best Single Drama: *Persepolis* (BBC2).

Best Drama Series: *Cracker* (ITV).

Best Light Entertainment Performance: *Richard Dimbleby Award*: Jeremy Paxman.

Best Comedy Performance: *Martin Clunes* (*Alan Smithead*).

Best News Coverage: *Channel 4 coverage of war crimes in former Yugoslavia*.

Awards in the Gift of the Council: *Best Screenplay* (original): *The Usual Suspects* (Christopher McQuarrie).

Goldsmith turns screw on Major

Michael White
Political Editor

JOHAN MAJOR last night faced fresh pressure from the Conservative right wing as Sir James Goldsmith made plain he would not withdraw his threatened referendum challenge and backbench Euro-sceptics stepped up demands that the Cabinet take a tougher line over the European ban on British beef.

In his most extensive foray into the political arena since ending months of silence, Sir James, who has pledged £20 million of his vast fortune to force a referendum on "who governs Britain... Westminster or Brussels", used a television interview by Jonathan Dimbleby to accuse the Government of "a consistent record of appeasement" towards the European Union.

But with Mr Major reportedly having called the EU hierarchy "a bunch of shits", some Tories saw Sir James's tone as covering a discreet retreat from earlier demands for a referendum on the 1991 Maastricht treaty, rather than on the single currency issue as the Cabinet has now promised.

During a combative and flamboyant performance, the billionaire financier embraced the reported end of talks from Mr Major's Euro-sceptical ex-colleague, John Redwood, saying: "If they want to come and talk to me, I'm happy to talk."

But asked if he would drop his threat to run candidates against sitting MPs, as Mr Redwood hopes, Sir James replied: "I will listen to his point of view and reject it."

Last night Mr Redwood was undismayed, stressing that the Goldsmith camp, not he, had sought the meeting which he hoped would still go ahead.

With Norman Lamont giving Sir James tacit encouragement, the financier confirmed "the likelihood" that he will personally stand against the pro-European Conservative MP David Mellor in Putney.

With Tory MPs braced for more pressure on the Cabinet from both sides of the party, there was speculation that had results in the local elections on May 2 will renew talk of Mr Major standing down. A few MPs on both Euro-wings are muttering to that effect. But more Tories see that as fantasy. "We may lose with

him; we'll certainly lose without him," said one MP.

The most exotic manifestation of subtle pressure from the right wing came in the shape of claims that Mr Major had again resorted to British language to express his frustrations over Europe. The *Sunday Express* — no longer the Prime Minister's most reliable press friend — reported that he regards his EU colleagues as having "acted like a bunch of shits" over the beef crisis.

"It just shows there is no such thing as what is good for Europe. The only thing that counts is what is good for each country," a furious Mr Major is supposed to have said at a private meeting after key EU figures, such as the agricultural commissioner, Franz Fischler, were reported as saying they would be prepared to eat British beef if it was not banned.

Downing Street refused to comment, but Mr Major's past form includes his famous "bastards" remark on an open ITN microphone.

What the *Express* report

The PM reportedly accused Brussels of 'acting like a bunch of shits' over the beef crisis

was mainly designed to do was raise expectations that Mr Major would be "tough" with Europe, possibly by withholding Britain's next £800 million gross monthly payment to the EU if the beef ban is not lifted. Senior officials, fresh from Mr Major's summit in Moscow with key EU colleagues, however played down the threat.

Having explained the details in Moscow to the German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, the Italian prime minister, Lamberto Dini, and President Jacques Chirac of France — plus the EU Commission president, Jacques Santer — Mr Major wants calm debate to persuade Europe that Britain is doing enough to calm fears about a link between BSE and CJD in humans.

"It is science that will convince people, not threats," said one official. Beef sales are back to 85 per cent of their pre-BSE levels, Mr Major has been told.

War? What war? asks Yeltsin

David Hearst in Moscow

IN DOUBLESPEAK worthy of his Soviet predecessors, President Boris Yeltsin declared yesterday that there had been no Russian military operations in Chechnya for three weeks, and that the situation there was "not bad".

As *Interfax* news agency quoted a Russian commander reporting clashes in five Chechen villages, Mr Yeltsin said baldly: "No military operations have been carried out since March 31," referring to the date of his peace plan, although some rebel bands were "still running around".

President Clinton, asked why Moscow was not being pressed harder by the West on the suffering endured by Chechnya's civilian population, replied by expanding Mr Yeltsin's line that the region is part of Russia — but said that Moscow should seek a peaceful settlement.

"The US has taken the position that Chechnya is a part of Russia," Mr Clinton told a news conference after almost five hours of talks with the Russian president. "But in the end a free country has to have free association, so there has to be something beyond fighting. There has to be a diplomatic solution."

Since Mr Yeltsin tried to implement his ceasefire, scores of Chechen villages have been bombed and surrounded by Russian forces, and more than 120 federal troops have died in fighting.

The two presidents met after the nuclear summit of leaders of the group of seven main industrial countries and Russia decided on a largely pre-prepared package of proposals on nuclear co-operation and strategic arms control measures against nuclear theft.

Both men attempted to laugh off the abiding impression of the weekend's events

— that the whole international show had been arranged to show support for Mr Yeltsin in the forthcoming presidential election.

Mr Clinton avoided open endorsement of Mr Yeltsin, but referring to the communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov, said: "I don't think we should be under any illusions that people run for office on platforms that they intend to implement, and therefore all elections involve choices and have consequences." The relationship between Washington and Moscow would be defined by the poll, he said.

Praising the Yeltsin government's economic reforms, he said they were bearing fruit after very difficult years. "Real progress is being made."

The two presidents revealed progress on two technical arms control issues which had been complicating their relationship. Mr Yeltsin said the US was in favour of Russia re-adjusting its quotas

of troops, tanks and armoured personnel carriers allowed in border regions under the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty. Progress has also been made on an American demand to define missile systems which are not covered by the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, and strategic rockets which are.

No substantial progress was made on Nato's eastwards expansion. Mr Clinton reiterated that accepting former Soviet bloc states as members did not represent a threat to Russia. Mr Yeltsin, however, said Mr Clinton had pledged to use his influence to ensure expansion was not speeded up. He said: "I think a two-way agreement might be worked out. In our view, it might include a provision that no country may be accepted [for Nato membership] without Russia's agreement."

Yeltsin's chance, page 5; Leader comment, page 8

Polls give edge to Italy's centre-left

John Hooper in Rome

POLLSTERS last night showed the centre-left Olive Tree alliance heading for victory in yesterday's Italian general election.

An "intention poll" based mainly on data gathered in the week before the vote put the Olive Tree and its Communist allies five percentage points ahead. But an exit poll gave the centre-left an edge of only two points over Silvio Berlusconi's conservative Freedom Alliance.

Such a result would probably produce a deadlocked parliament, with the balance between right and left held by Umberto Bossi's maverick Northern League.

However, the intention poll did not take into account the peculiarities of Italy's electoral system, in which three-quarters of the seats in both houses are decided on a first-past-the-post basis: it was based on some 20,000 interviews, of which a quarter were carried out yesterday.

The Olive Tree, led by a University of Bologna professor of economics, Romano Prodi, is dominated by the formerly Communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS);

but it includes substantial numbers of centrists, most of whom, like Professor Prodi, once belonged to the all-powerful Christian Democrat party. The Olive Tree also takes in Italy's Greens.

Last night's predictions assumed that the Olive Tree could count on the parliamentary support of Communist Refoundation, a hard-line party formed after the Italian Communist Party abandoned Marxism and became the PDS.

Despite electoral reform and three general elections since 1987, Italian politics is still characterised by short-lived governments and a

plethora of parties. Yesterday's vote was prompted by the collapse of a non-party government led by a former central-banker, Lamberto Dini.

He took over after seven months of tumult during which the country was led by Mr Berlusconi. The television magnate won the 1994 election but lost power when he was deserted by Mr Bossi and most of the League's deputies.

For Mr Berlusconi, the election was unfortunately timed: he is on trial for corruption in connection with bribes made by executives of his business empire.

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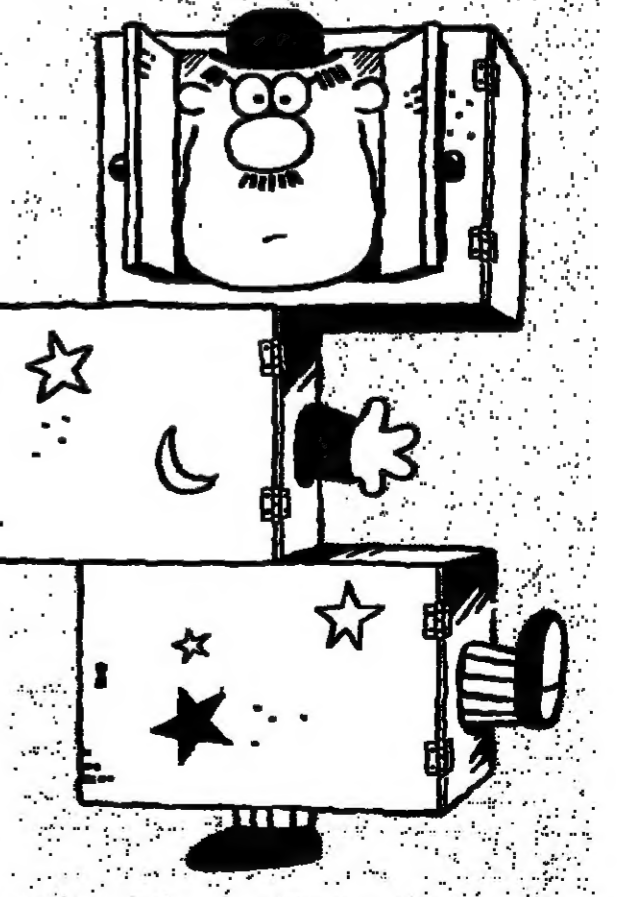
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4 BRITAIN

Ministers urge pay rise for MPs

Michael White
Political Editor

SENIOR ministers are pressing for a deal to raise MPs' pay and pensions before the summer recess, as a way of retaining the loyalty of a key block of Tory backbenchers and ensuring the Government's survival into 1997.

Although weekend reports are premature in suggesting that the body reviewing the issue has decided in favour of a 30 per cent rise in basic pay — taking MPs from £34,850 to around £45,000 — there is little doubt that public opinion is being softened up for a significant "catch-up" increase.

Tony Newton, leader of the Commons, is the central player in balancing John Major's desire not to anger voters — at a time when many pay settlements are in the 2-4 per cent range — with the need to placate MPs who feel they have not shared the general rise in prosperity.

Some senior MPs argue that while average pay has risen by 30 per cent in real terms in 30 years, their pay has stayed static, although allowances and expenses, virtually nil before Harold Wilson took office in 1964, are much more generous.

The key to Mr Newton's calculation, some insiders said last night, was that more than 50 Tory MPs due to stand down at the next election know their pensions will be based on final salary. They want the matter sorted out soon, probably in early July, in case the Government suddenly collapses.

That would also suit Labour, since Tony Blair could more easily go along with the proposed consensus before an election than be faced with pressure to raise salaries soon after a Labour

cabinet took office. Cabinet ministers' pay, currently £70,000-£80,000, would also rise sharply, though not to the £250,000 needed to restore them to equivalent rates in Victorian times.

Yesterday MPs on both sides said they expected the senior salaries review body (SSRB) to recommend less than £45,000 for backbenchers — possibly a 20 per cent rise to £40,000 — although office allowances and pension rights would also be enhanced.

In a sub-plot, the former prime minister, Edward Heath renewed calls for a hefty increase — to £100,000 a year — to be justified by halving the 651 elected members. After the next election there will be 652, some 40 more than when Sir Edward, aged 79, first won Beaulieu in 1950.

The US, with 250 million people, had only 436 congressmen, he said on GMTV. "MPs ought to be paid three times as much; they ought to be given at least three times the staff to deal with their constituents' problems. Then we might get the right people into Parliament."

Sir Edward's thesis has a sub-text: he is disparaging the quality of many younger MPs, especially his Thatcherite critics. But most MPs are agreed that the level of constituency casework is much higher than a generation ago.

The SSRB undertook to review Westminster pay levels at the Government's behest after 302 backbenchers signed an all-party motion instigated by distinguished senior colleagues, notably Sir Terence Higgins, Tory MP for Worthing, Alf Morris, Labour MP for Wyke, and the former Liberal leader Sir David Steel.

The motion did not seek "double pay", as reported by some tabloids at the time, though some Tory backbenchers on outside earnings hinted as much in private. They argued that middle-ranking executives in industry had seen their pay rise dramatically in recent years, making Parliament much less attractive as a career. The squeeze on outside earnings since Lord Nolan's report on standards in public life will intensify those feelings.

Labour MPs, less concerned about high salaries and less likely to have given them up to enter the Commons, want better allowances for their Westminster and constituency staff.

Muslims gather for emotional tribute to leader who backed fatwa on Salman Rushdie



A mourner at the memorial service yesterday of Kalim Siddiqui. Yusuf Islam, the former Cat Stevens (top right) paid tribute



HUNDREDS of Muslims gathered yesterday in an emotional open-air tribute to Britain's prominent hardline Muslim leader Kalim Siddiqui.

He was described by guest speakers, including Yusuf Islam, the former pop star Cat Stevens, as "the leading Muslim of his generation" during passionate speeches at the two-hour service.

The founder of the Muslim Parliament in Great Britain died last week from a heart attack. He had had bypass surgery last June. He achieved fame when he backed the Ayatollah Khomeini's fatwa [death sentence] on Salman Rushdie and demanded Britain chop off the hands of thieves.

During the funeral service at Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, many of his followers cheered when "Salman the blasphemer" was condemned. The father of three died in Pretoria, South Africa, during a conference on his vision of a new Islamic civilisation. His speeches were broadcast to more than 300,000 people.

Dr Siddiqui's associate, Dr Mohammed Ghyassuddin, said: "He represented the eternal ethos of millions of people all over the world."

Yusuf Islam said: "The movement he left can only survive if it is based on the understanding of its principles. He spoke truthful words and that is the most important thing which is said in the Koran."

Dr Siddiqui underwent a heart bypass operation last June. He was also an author and a former sub-editor on the Guardian. He leaves a wife, two daughters and a son.

Ex-chief constable rounds on Howard

David Pallister

A FORMER chief constable has accused the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, of turning Britain into a police state with MI5 becoming an East German-style Stasi force "where half the population finishes up spying on the other half".

John Alderson, chief constable of Devon and Cornwall from 1973 to 1982, accuses Mr Howard of using the language of dictators like Hitler, Mussolini, and Franco: "Give me your liberties and I will protect you."

He also charges the shadow home secretary, Jack Straw, with moral cowardice in endorsing discredited Victorian values and being fearful of breaking the consensus on crime and punishment.

Mr Alderson, a Liberal parliamentary candidate in 1983, makes his allegations in the May issue of the socialist magazine, Red Pepper. "Politicians at the moment seem locked in a vicious spiral of building more prisons and incarcerating people who will later come out and commit more crime," he says. The majority of policemen "much prefer to be part of a reactionary force, riding around in cars, sweeping down on of-



John Alderson: 'Vicious spiral of building more jails'

enders and visiting victims." Mr Alderson has for 15 years been an adviser on law and order to the Council of Europe, which manages the European Court of Human Rights.

His most sinister predictions concern the security services, MI5. He describes its new role in combating organised crime as "one of the most worrying developments of modern times". "It is fatal to let the secret service into the area of ordinary crime," he says, because of its unaccountability. "They infiltrate organis-

tions, people's jobs and lives. They operate almost like a cancer, infiltrating and destroying trust and security between people... At the moment the scorn of a Stasi [the former East German secret police] has been planted but it is there for future governments to build on."

Mr Alderson says politicians see criminal justice as a way to deal with social problems. "This approach has resulted in a dangerous rather effect whereby the control of crime is constantly being equated with the diminution of liberty."

He places the blame on the "poison" of policing the Northern Ireland troubles and the 1984/85 miners' strike.

"No government in my lifetime has ever given liberty back," he says. "It is not in the nature of governments to grant liberty — they are all about power... The present party political system is incapable of dealing with the challenges of society."

He sees hope in the moral stand taken by anti-road and animal welfare groups, and particularly the women involved in them. "These protest movements are largely led and moved by women, and potentially such moral movements can overtake party politics."

Empire of crime boss 'protected by ambitious officers he fed with tip-offs'

Erland Closson

STRATHCLYDE police are investigating the possibility that up to a dozen officers have been protecting Glasgow's top criminals in return for career-enhancing tips on underworld affairs.

The source is said to be a former aide to the "Mr Big" who has decided for undisclosed reasons to reveal the extent of the mutually beneficial arrangement. So far Thomas Bagan's only reward has been an attempted assassination on April 1 in Shotts prison, where he is serving 12 years for armed robbery.

The Strathclyde force, the second biggest in the UK, was being co-opted by the claim that two of its senior detectives have spent much of the past year amassing a tape-recorded archive of Bagan's embarrassing allegations.

A spokeswoman merely confirmed that an investigation was under way into "a number of serious crimes" committed in the area over the past few years.

According to weekend reports, "Mr Big" has for years exploited the ambitions of certain Strathclyde officers in order to ensure that a business empire which extends from brothels to drugs remains undisturbed.

The man, said to be the leader of Glasgow underworld's notorious Barlanark Team, has allegedly exchanged information on small-scale crimes for an understanding that his own operations will not be harassed.

Collaborators, uneasy at this method of impressing superiors, are apparently restrained from terminating the arrangement by the documentary evidence of their corruption that "Mr Big" has carefully collected.

They may also have been frightened of crossing him: Bagan has reportedly linked his former colleague to the unsolved double murder of two Glasgow gangsters in 1991 — believed to be one of the "serious crimes" Strathclyde police is now re-examining.

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'Feminist zealots thrive on grievances and use minorities as raw material for their whinge factories'

Maverick solicitors' leader lays down law to women on sex discrimination

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

THE MAVERICK president of the Law Society confirmed his reputation as "the deepest of reactionaries" when he tried to convince an audience of 300 women barristers and solicitors that zealots had made men the victims of discrimination.

Martin Mears, who trounced the society's official candidate last July, denied at a conference called Changing the Culture that women suffered any disadvantages in the legal profession. The conference, at the Law Society in London on Saturday, was the second in a series designed to identify and rectify problems facing women.



Martin Mears: has 'bitter and dangerous enemies'

Job shares

All practising solicitors
Men 70%
Women 30%
Practising solicitors under 30
Men 48%
Women 52%
Barristers called to the Bar in 1975
Men 89%
Women 11%
Barristers called to the Bar in 1995
Men 56%
Women 44%
QCs
Men 94.2%
Women 5.8%

is a bold heretic who challenges any of its doctrines. Hardly a week went by without some new example of zealotry and heresy hunt-

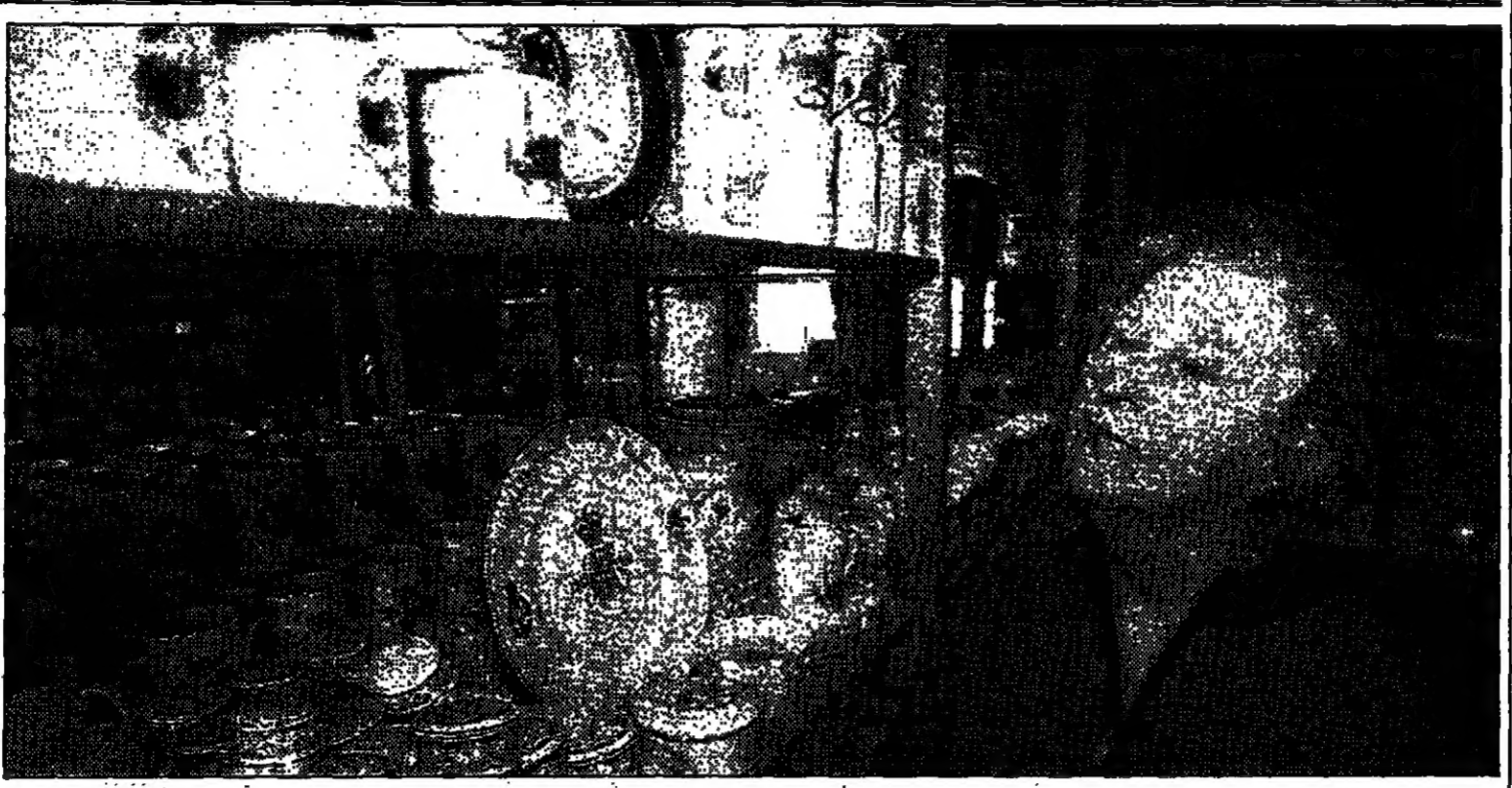
ing, such as the scandal of the 14-year-old girl who won a tribunal case against a newsagent who refused her a paper delivery job because it was too dangerous for a girl. He wanted to confirm his reactionary reputation by saying that male workers had no place in a female prison or female warders in a male prison. And the "taboo" against female combat soldiers, which the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, was said to be thinking of abolishing, should be reinforced.

China firm in row with palace

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

PROBLEMS over the ordering of royal china to go on sale to commemorate the opening to the public of Buckingham Palace have made a mug out of one Britain's smallest and finest bone china manufacturers.

Brenda Graves, owner of Sevarg Fine Bone China in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, mortgaged her home to pay her workers after an extraordinary miscalculation by the palace on how popular the mugs, tea cups and saucers would be with the public.



Brenda Graves with some of the china her company made for Buckingham Palace's souvenir shop

A letter of protest has been sent to the Queen, while a stock of £20,000 worth of commemorative china has been left in store in Stoke-on-Trent pending a settlement of a two-year argument. Even the arch critic of royal waste, the public accounts select committee, Alan Williams, MP for Swansea West, is trying to help resolve the row.

Buckingham Palace also asked her to hold back some 30,000 items which were not required in the last week because bad weather cut sales. The next year, after opening negotiations for 173,000 mugs, pill boxes, cup and saucers, Buckingham Palace switched back to Royal Craftsmen, one of her main subcontractors, to save £20,000.

Leaks to media force Queen to cancel birthday meal at restaurant and settle for quiet evening at Windsor

Owen Bowcott

THE Queen was forced to celebrate her 70th birthday last night in even greater privacy than intended after news of the family's outing to a restaurant leaked to the press. Prince Edward had reserved a table at the

evening was hastily rearranged at Windsor Castle. Neither Prince Andrew, nor the Princess Royal, were present. Nor were the estranged Princess of Wales or the divorcing Duchess of York who are understood not to have been invited.

were anything to go by, it should have been a thoroughly miserable day. There was speculation that the royal family's coffers are down to their last £50 million while the bills for the royal divorces and restoration of Windsor Castle after the fire continue to escalate.

News in brief

Book sales fall despite price cut

BOOK sales revenue fell by 6.8 per cent in the three months after the collapse of the Net Book Agreement which controlled prices maintenance and despite predictions of a rise by the publishers, according to figures released yesterday by the Family Expenditure Survey. Spending on books in the first quarter of 1995 was the lowest for six years. Customers lurid into shops appear to have ended up spending less than usual.

BBC Arabic service stopped

JOURNALISTS on the BBC's Arabic news service were sent home on full pay yesterday after the Saudi-owned Orbit Communications which owns the satellite that transmits the service to the Middle East announced it would no longer be carrying the channel. Its decision followed Saudi protests about coverage of an application for political asylum in Britain by the Saudi dissident Mohammed al-Masari and a Pan-Arab programme about the affair included allegations of human rights abuses and secretly filmed footage of a man being executed by sword.

Coach firm to get rail line

NATIONAL Express is today expected to be officially awarded the next rail line to be sold off—Midland Main Line despite already running coach services on the route from St Pancras station, London, to Leeds via Leicester, Nottingham, Derby and Sheffield. The company which won the Gatwick Express franchise earlier this month had been named in advance as the preferred bidder for Midland Main Line by the franchising director Roger Salmon because he wanted the Office of Fair Trading to look at the competition aspect.

Cat link to lead levels

FURRY pets—particularly cats—seem to slightly increase levels of lead in children's blood, according to researchers at Bristol University and the Thomas Coram Institute, London. The blood-lead levels were generally low and were considered harmless. A study of 575 children aged over two showed that blood lead levels were higher in families with dogs and cats compared with those who had none. They were even more marked in those families with a cat. Researchers believe the animals carry lead-laden dust into homes and pass it on when they are stroked.

Musical sour note

THE musical life of the nation will be threatened unless radical action is taken to protect music education, the Federation of Music Services (FMS), warned at its launch in Oxfordshire yesterday. Budget cuts and the reorganisation of local government was forcing schools to "give music provision the Cinderella treatment". Young talent was being lost and prestigious events such as the Schools Prom concerts held each November at the Royal Albert Hall could be in jeopardy.

SDLP leader stays in hospital

SRAMUS Mallon, the deputy leader of the mainly-Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party, is expected to remain in St Thomas's hospital, central London, until mid-week after fainting on a BBC radio broadcast last week. The MP for Newry and Armagh and deputy to John Hume will miss the two remaining days of Commons debate on the bill for elections in Northern Ireland.

Police drop 'race' lecturer

CHRIS Brand, the Edinburgh university psychology lecturer who claims that black people are less intelligent than whites, is to be dropped as a consultant psychologist by Lothian and Borders police, its deputy chief constable Graham Power said. Dr Brand whose book on intelligence was withdrawn by the publishers last week, will not be retained after he completes a contract to develop a psychiatric test for chief inspectors seeking promotion.

Ecstasy man 'stable'

A 26-YEAR-OLD Liverpool man is in a stable condition after taking three tablets of ecstasy at a nightclub in Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, early on Saturday morning. A North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary spokesman said his condition was not life-threatening.

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Yeltsin's chance to rattle the West

The Russian president goes to China later this week, eager to make friends. However he fears a proverbial prick. In this article, **David Hearst** previews the visit

THEY used to be called "hegemonists". But that was in the days when Americans were "imperialists" and Israelis "expansionists". Today the Chinese are variously regarded as a "demographic threat" to Russians living along the exposed 2,000 mile common border, a potentially huge trading partner, and a strategic counter-weight to the West.

"You want it, but it pricks" goes an old Russian proverb about the desire to grasp something that could hurt you. China could well provide a lucrative market for Russia's high-technology arms sales, replacing those it has lost in central and eastern Europe.

But how far should a militarily weakened Russia go to help a more powerful neighbour re-arm? History urges caution. The

so-called "border clashes" of the late 1980s were in fact fierce fights between Russia and Chinese border guards.

One occurred on Damanski Island in the river Ussuri. An advance party of Chinese "invaded" the island, opening fire on a group of border guards who had come to question them.

The Russians replied with a grad missile attack which wiped out all the Chinese on the island.

The scars of this dispute are still visible. The Primoria region voted in 1993 for the extreme nationalist Vladimir Zhurinovskiy, and last December for the communist Genady Zyuganov.

Russian land is measured in inches when it comes to the hearts and minds of nationalists, who have seen Primoria flooded with Chinese traders and ask when the other 120 million residents who live Manchuria are going

to come across.

Mr Yeltsin, who flies to Beijing this week, is only a month and a half away from a presidential election.

He wants to tie up a border deal, but wiser counsel at home demands that he fudge the issue. Confronted with reports that Mr Yeltsin intended to hand over 3,700

marines, and the C-300 solid fuel anti-aircraft missile. Russia supported Beijing's position on Taiwan recently, which was "highly appreciated" in the Chinese capital.

Mr Yeltsin wants to sell gas and oil to China. An agreement foresees the building of oil and gas pipelines running from Krasnoyarsk and Irkutsk

to come across.

Mr Yeltsin, who flies to Beijing this week, is only a month and a half away from a presidential election.

He wants to tie up a border deal, but wiser counsel at home demands that he fudge the issue. Confronted with reports that Mr Yeltsin intended to hand over 3,700

message to the West.

With Russia's western border threatened by the expansion of Nato, and its southern borders in the Caucasus and Central Asia aflame in two wars, it is important for Russia to have one flank which is pacified.

A Sino-Russian rapprochement would be the clearest signal Russia could offer the West that it has a choice.

Russia remains a Euro-Asian power. It can trade with the East as well as the West: many would say the markets in the East are potentially richer.

The Russian president's trip is an important foreign policy marker, no less significant than the replacement of the pro-Western Andrei Kozyrev as foreign minister, with the former Soviet hard-man Yevgeny Primakov. The pendulum of Russian foreign policy is swinging eastwards once again.

Russia can trade with East and West. Eastern markets may even prove richer

acres of land to the Chinese, the deputy foreign minister, Alexander Panov, insisted last week: "We are planning nothing of the kind."

Mr Yeltsin wants to sell more military hardware to the Chinese. Last year they got 26 Sukhoi ground attack fighters and an agreement was signed for 24 more. China is also buying Russian sub-

in eastern Siberia through China to countries of the Pacific Basin. But again he faces domestic problems. Both Russian regions are strongly anti-Yeltsin.

Even before the death of Mr Yeltsin's first radical democrat government, the Chinese way to market reform was trumpeted as an alternative. Arkady Volynsky, a centrist politician, was its key proponent. Now that Mr Yeltsin's government has changed, the jargon has too. Mr Yeltsin's call for a "socially oriented market economy" echoes China's goal of a "socialist market economy".

In Russia's case, this will almost certainly mean an increase in protectionist measures, which might revive the idea of free economic zones.

Russia and China have mooted a "Blagoveshensk-Hai He" zone.

But above all these tactical goals towards a larger strategic one: not just for Mr Yeltsin but for any future president of Russia.

He may set off with the good wishes of the 67 countries still ringing in his ears after this weekend's nuclear summit in Moscow, but when the Russian president arrives in Beijing, he will not be the messenger boy of the West. He will be sending a

Catalans gain wide powers

Adela Gooch in Madrid

SPAIN'S centre-right Popular Party is close to forming a government with the backing of Catalan nationalists, after agreeing to grant sweeping powers not just to Catalonia but to all the regions.

"We are in touching distance of an accord," the PP's chief negotiator, Rodrigo Rato, said yesterday after a meeting between the PP leader, José María Aznar, and the Catalan regional president, Jordi Pujol.

The Catalans were eager. Mr Pujol said progress had been made but there were still points to be settled. "We must press on and see if we can reach agreement. It is possible we may not."

But after seven weeks of horse-trading, few give any credence to Mr Pujol's frequent threat to withhold support and provoke fresh elections.

The PP and Mr Pujol's nationalist coalition share common ground on economic policy and social issues. The stumbling block was devolution, on which Mr Aznar has given way, abandoning an election pledge to halt regionalisation. There is now little doubt that he will be confirmed as prime minister in an investiture vote before the formal opening of parliament on May 6.

The process has been convoluted because Mr Aznar ran an election campaign showing scant regard for Catalan sensitivities after opinion polls convinced him he was likely to obtain a full majority.

The election result — a 1 per cent PP advantage over the Socialists, 29 seats short of a majority in the 350-seat parliament — left Mr Aznar with no alternative but to win over the Catalans, whose 16 seats gave them the balance of power.

He will also have the support of four Canary Island nationalist MPs, close to the PP in ideology and background.

The PP, eager to take office, has watched in silence as Mr Aznar carried out a sharp U-turn, professing admiration for Catalan culture and traditions while negotiating concessions on tax, control over the police and prisons, and transport and trade policy.

Ostensibly, the negotiations also required Mr Pujol to make a U-turn by switching allegiance in the run-up to the election from Felipe González, the Socialist whom he kept in power for three years.

In fact Mr Pujol relishes the role of kingmaker and the opportunity it provides for him to exact concessions, but some of his supporters remain unconvinced.

The negotiations have been complicated because any concessions given to Catalonia will almost certainly have to be applied to other regions too. Thus the party which had promised to stop devolution will in fact be extending it.

The concessions offered include doubling to 30 per cent the share of income tax revenue administered directly by the regions.

In the past few days there have been rumblings from other political forces that the concessions amount to an underhand sweeping reform of the Spanish state.

Abbé defends philosopher accused of anti-Semitism

Paul Webster in Paris

FRANCE'S most popular personality, Abbé Pierre, has publicly backed the philosopher Roger Garaudy, aged 83, who will be tried on Thursday for questioning official versions of the Holocaust.

Mr Garaudy faces a prison sentence for his latest book, *The Founding Myth of Israel*, published by a firm that specialises in anti-Jewish views of Hitler's crimes.

The movement against racism, MRAP, started the prosecution after months of heated hearts and minds of nationalists, who have seen Primoria flooded with Chinese traders and ask when the other 120 million residents who live Manchuria are going



A man repairs his house in a once front-line suburb. Now the windows will be smaller and will not face the mountains. PHOTOGRAPH: DANILO KRISTANOVIC

Sarajevo builds on hopes for peace

The war took its toll on the Bosnian capital but has given its residents the opportunity to rebuild their city. **Julian Borger** reports on a far-reaching architectural debate

WHILE the broken glass and rubble are being cleared from Sarajevo's streets, architects are tentatively sketching plans for the battered capital, in the hope of recapturing some of its pre-war charm and taking advantage of its disrepair to do away with the concrete legacy of socialism.

Despite widespread doubts about how long the peace will last, there is increasing pressure to rebuild quickly as soldiers return from the front. The streets and cafes are full of demobilised fighters looking for jobs and homes.

Meanwhile, foreign donors are flying in with proposals for cheap building estates and the sort of grandiose projects which were

once the hallmark of former Yugoslavia's communist rulers.

"Sometimes money doesn't bring beauty and heritage. Sometimes money brings bad architects," said Jamakovic, head of urban planning in the city council, said.

Aida Mandic-Kaluzovic's architectural firm is under pressure from Spanish donors to help design a new Olympic-size sports centre in one of the western suburbs. "We are trying to fight them, and argue that it is better to rebuild flats and a medical centre first," she said.

Mrs Mandic-Kaluzovic had a group of her colleagues meet every Friday to discuss Sarajevo's architectural future. It is the continuation of a debate

that lasted throughout the war. They called it the art of "warditecture".

Now the architects' association is preparing for the first international workshop on "post-war architecture" in Munich next month.

Some of the city's problems are urgent. For example, almost all Sarajevo's trees were chopped down for firewood. On the northern hills, deforestation, along with the lack of drains, threatens to cause a mudslide which could destroy thousands of shacks and houses built without planning permission in the last years of communism.

The city council is carrying out an emergency tree-planting programme to strengthen Sarajevo's northern flank.

But there is also a far-reaching debate on how the city might break free of the twin legacies of war and dictatorship. Many in the architects' association believe the city should draw lessons from its pre-socialist past. They say the war

has taught them to rely on communities rather than technology.

"The people who lived in the big skyscrapers had great problems during the war. The lifts broke and the water pumps stopped working. There were no chimneys for fires and no storerooms for wood," Mr Jamakovic said.

The concrete housing estates in the west of the city were reduced to squalor by the war. The open spaces between the tower blocks of New Sarajevo became a dangerous wasteland, with no shelter from the elements or mortars.

At the narrow eastern end of a tapering valley, the city's Ottoman heart of 18th-century mosques, narrow streets and low, tiled houses proved remarkably resilient. Mr Jamakovic attributes this to the old Turkish building style, in which districts, or mahalas, were built around small courtyards and fountains.

Residents of the old quarter fetched food and water for each other and put out

their neighbours' fires. Partly as a result, the survival rate was significantly higher than in the suburbs.

Jean-François Daoulas, a French urban planner working in Sarajevo for the United Nations, believes the mahala can be reproduced, by building groups of low houses, offices, parks and sports facilities between the concrete "canyon canyons".

"There is an opportunity to do something now. Sarajevo can rebuild their urban culture," Mr Daoulas said.

When construction begins in earnest it is likely to bear the mark of "warditecture". Most architects say it will be impossible to shrug off their siege mentality and the fear that hostilities might start again.

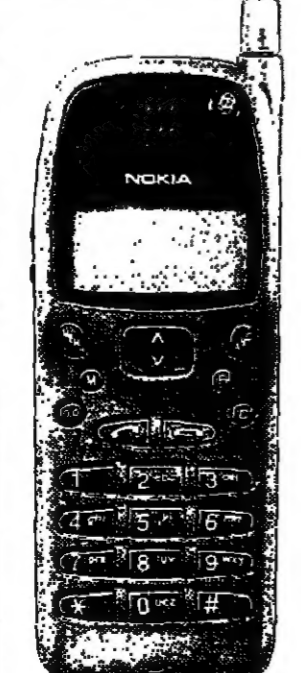
"Before the war, we used to build houses with very big windows facing the mountains, where the shells came from," Mr Jamakovic said. "Now we will make our windows smaller, and put them on the other side of the house."

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Tribunal may have to turn to charities

Roy Gutman in Washington

STYMIED by Nato's refusal to take an active role in the search for war criminals in Bosnia, the Clinton administration has begun canvassing foreign charities to take on work refused by the military.

The plan, which seems bizarre in the light of the deployment of 60,000 Nato troops, of whom 20,000 are American, is for a charity to clear mines at mass graves.

The state department is also looking into hiring private firms to provide security

for investigators from the Hague War Crimes Tribunal, another job the military refuses to take on.

"We have been approached," said Svein Henning, a Norwegian People's Aid, a charity which conducts humanitarian mine clearing in post-war zones and already planned to go to Bosnia. But it would be a month or two before the group was operational, and it would have to prioritise work.

The stand-off between Nato and the tribunal will delay investigators, especially if the cash-strapped tribunal must pay for its own security.

The tribunal wants Nato to help with investigations and arrest indicted war criminals. Nato says its mission is to separate the sides and everything else is secondary.

The Clinton administration is split over how to respond. The state department wants Nato to do more, starting by detaining the Bosnian Serb president, Radovan Karadzic, and General Ratko Mladic, both indicted for genocide and crimes against humanity.

But Pentagon officials say their arrests would lead to recommitments, creating risks for Nato troops.

A state department official

said security at the grave sites was precarious and there was a significant danger of tampering.

"We're not going to be getting into the business of guarding mass grave sites," Major Jerry Hanna, a Nato spokesman in Sarajevo, told Newsday this month. "We will do other things, such as aerial surveillance. We simply don't have the manpower to guard these grave sites."

But according to the tribunal's acting director, Susannah Sirkin, inadequate security at the grave sites would make forensic investigations impossible. "We do not see

how the Nato force can fail to provide that support given the strong US government support for this work."

Even Nato's aerial surveillance has proved inadequate. It learned of serious tampering at two sites only from news reports. — Newsday.

The Bosnian government freed the separatist Serb Colonel Aleksa Krstanovic yesterday, two weeks after he was returned to its custody by the tribunal, which found no evidence on which to indict him. He was released with 10 other Serbs captured shortly before last year's Dayton peace agreement. — Reuter.

صديقا من الاجل

News in brief

Nigeria detains 'subversive' sultan

NIGERIA announced a new sultan of Sokoto, Muhammed Sa'ad, yesterday after General Sani Abacha's military government sacked and detained his predecessor, Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki.

Diplomats linked to child sex

AUSTRALIA has launched an independent investigation into accusations that Australian diplomats in Asia have used sex to buy access to orphans for child sex.

China broadcasts US beating

AS A United Nations panel prepares to vote on a resolution condemning Chinese human rights abuses tomorrow, Beijing has stepped up a sweeping media counter-attack against the United States, focusing on the videotaped beating of Mexican illegal immigrants by sheriff's deputies in California.

Thai mother killed in ritual

AN EXORCIST beat a mother of two to death after she refused to pay a bill for ritualistic beatings, Thailand's Nation newspaper reported yesterday.

Burundi villagers slaughtered

ARMED gunmen killed 20 villagers, many of them women and children, and set several homes on fire in southern Burundi, the country's radio broadcaster said yesterday.

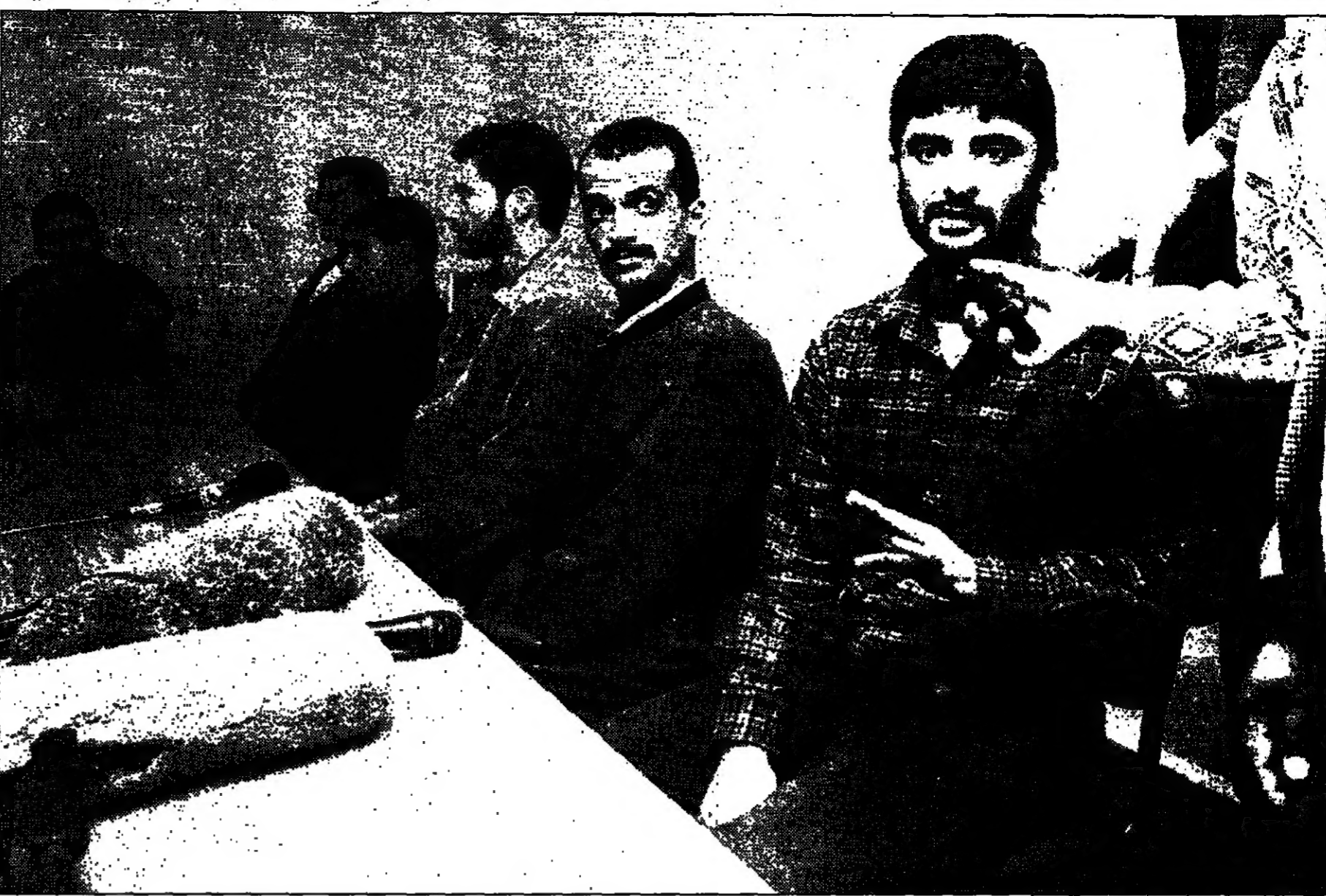


PEACEKEEPERS took control of central Monrovia yesterday as a ceasefire agreement came into effect in the Liberian capital after two weeks of fighting between rival militias.

Sri Lanka pounds Tigers

SRI LANKAN forces pounded Tamil Tiger guerrillas from the air, land and sea as thousands of troops pushed deeper into the rebels' Jaffna peninsula stronghold in the north, the army said yesterday.

Police uncover Hamas 'plot to kill Arafat' • Syria watches failure of military might



SIX members of the Islamic militant group Hamas, arrested by Palestinian police who suspected them of plotting to assassinate Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO, talk to reporters (above) at a press conference in Gaza City yesterday.

head of Palestinian intelligence in southern Gaza, said. "Two explosive parcels and two mines were prepared," he said at the press conference where he presented six of the seven

and the prevention of six suicide bombings in Israel. He said the two would be released. One of the arrested men, identified only as Motaz, said he was asked three months ago by Ziad

Diplomatic efforts show some hope in Lebanon

For his part, Mr Christopher did not acknowledge that Iran had a part to play in Lebanon. He said President Hafez al-Assad of Syria wanted a "reaffirmation" of the US-brokered understandings that ended the last big flare-up in July 1983.

He was speaking after talks with Shimon Peres, the Israeli prime minister, who also suggested that it would take some time — "hopefully some days" — to arrange a truce.

Tables turning against Israel

Tel Aviv's offensive has failed on three fronts, David Hirst in Beirut writes. Since Grapes of Wrath began, with its continuing salvoes, Hizbullah is quenching a thirst for revenge among the campaign's main victims, the Shi'ites.

Desperate relatives scour hospitals

Melchior Goldberg in Sidon. ARMED DIB'S 6-year-old son had his leg amputated and surgery performed on his stomach on Friday, but Mr Dib could not be with him.

formation, offering pictures and descriptions of missing relatives. "The task is complicated by the fact that the authorities are unable to identify many of the bodies and patients in the hospitals, and they are being distinguished only by numbers.

Child care report backs working mums

Half the American women with children aged under one year now work outside the home. Presenting their findings to a conference on infant studies in Rhode Island at the weekend, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development declared that there was no inherent link between maternal attachment and day care.

to the heart of an enduringly bitter debate. Conservatives have argued that the children of working mothers feel alienated from them and develop behavioural problems later. Feminists have dismissed such claims as attempts to prevent the advance of women in the workplace.

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He thinks he's immortal. He isn't thinking about succession any more than Charles de Gaulle or Winston Churchill did. Rupert Murdoch Media G2 page 8

صكنا من الامل

for peace

charities

Howard's way
cuts prison TV
But hardly the way to curb riots

THE SUN will be ecstatic. The hardline, no-nonsense Michael Howard is withdrawing television sets from prison cells. Good old Howard. British criminals have had it too soft for too long. It is time the nanny state stopped such namby-pambying. What thugs sent to prison need is an old-fashioned dose of austerity and hard discipline. That would make sure they didn't repeat their crimes on release. But would it? Indeed, will withdrawing TVs improve prison security? Ask Sir John Learmonth, the tough army general invited by Michael Howard to review security after escapes from Parkhurst and Whitemoor. His 250-page report last year included a long list of ways in which security could be tightened. One involved extending the use of TVs in cells, currently restricted to 20 prisons. The reason was simple: TV reduces tensions, leaves prisoners with less time to dwell on grievances, frees prison staff for more constructive tasks than patrolling landings. Michael Howard knows this but prefers to maintain a tough image rather than pursue a realistic policy.

Even the Sun might be concerned by other cuts: a 2,800 reduction in officers, roof and cell strengthening at 14 prisons being dropped, a 40 per cent reduction in simple security schemes. The cuts are part of a 13 per cent reduction to prison running costs over the next three years and a 60 per cent cut in capital spending. All this against a background of record inmate numbers — up by 13,000 in two years — plus even bigger increases if Howard's new sentencing proposals are implemented. Home Office documents leaked to the Guardian advise the Home Secretary: "You will not want to be drawn into speculation about the size of education cuts." Indeed not. About 60 per cent of prisons are planning cuts. Officials concede that classes can be crucial to rehabilitation prospects and hope numeracy and literacy will be protected but note that "some classes may have fewer prisoners and are costly to run". The defence is already being prepared: reduction in education "should not be seen in isolation". It is "right that everything should be reviewed".

Five years on from the Woolf Report, prison reform has turned full circle. Then prisons seemed on the brink of a breakthrough. The report into the 1990 riots produced in the words of the then Home Secretary, Kenneth Baker, "a blueprint for a humane and riot-free prison system — the greatest step forward in penal policy this century". Michael Howard's predecessors were committed to a better system. They built 21 new prisons with 11,000 new places and provided another 7,500 with extensions and improvements. Overcrowding was cut, stopping-out ended, and more inmates involved in Woolf's "active regime". Now the system is going into reverse with more overcrowding, more time to be spent in cells, less education — even the new prisoners' complaints system is under review. Now the only people being recruited are accountants: 80 for better financial control. Perhaps they should be reminded why Woolf was set up: 20 prisons suffering riots in a single year. Just one of them — Strangeways — cost £60 million to rebuild plus £20 million for the police cells providing alternative accommodation. Michael Howard is not as clever as the Sun thinks.

Papering the holes

Nuclear problems must be cured at root

HAVE WE stepped back from the nuclear precipice? The summit talks in Moscow barely grappled with the real issues in spite of Bill Clinton's complacent claim. The Ukraine has finally agreed to confirm the closure of Chernobyl by the year 2000 — though there may be more haggling over the price. But for all the talk of highest priorities and shared objectives, nothing was done to lessen the chance of a second Chernobyl elsewhere. Instead of a vigorous international programme backed by compensation, this was left to "national efforts" and "peer review". Upgrading rather than closing is the easy path to agreement — and perhaps to another disaster. Discussion of nuclear and fissile materials security was even more perfunctory, out of deference to the election candidate whom the West pretends not to support. Boris Yeltsin's chances would indeed be prejudiced if opponents could accuse him of discussing Russia's "military secrets".

Russian critics have a point: this is not solely a former Soviet Union problem. The US has its own concerns about the task of "maintaining high confidence in an ageing stockpile". As Pugwash's founder Professor Joseph Rotblat has urged, any serious international effort must tackle the root question: how to eliminate the nuclear weapons which create the fissile stocks.

A comprehensive test-ban treaty (CTBT) to which Russia formally assented in Moscow, is a step forward. Yet this has been left on the agenda for so long that it may now be frustrated by India and other nuclear-threshold countries. Even if it can be achieved, it is not the passport to a non-nuclear world. The nuclear powers have been constrained to commit themselves — in last year's renewal of the non-proliferation treaty — to the long-term goal of complete elimination. But as a new report from the British American Security Information Council shows, they are busy devising new nuclear doctrines and weapons systems.

For the farmer or child who stumbles across one of the millions of land-mines sown by recent wars, the little bang is just as devastating as the big one. The Geneva talks on the UN Inhumane Weapons Convention starting today must also decide whether to tinker with the problem or tackle the root cause. No one pretends that de-mining the world would be any easier than de-nuclearising it. Yet opposition is weakening as the tragic consequences of landmines have become more visible. Australia and Germany have now joined 27 other states in favour of a global ban. Senior US generals, past and present, are agonising over the issue. Britain is increasingly isolated in claiming that mines are legitimate weapons of war and may, as reported today, feel obliged to fall into step with its Nato allies.

A ban on landmines, if achieved, will be a rare victory. No doubt it has "helped" that 26,000 people are killed or injured by mines each year around the world — and, crucially, that a tiny number of them have been US soldiers in Bosnia. Chernobyl "helped" too (though not yet enough). But disaster-led disarmament is a miserable way to proceed: do we have to wait for something far worse before we can ban the bomb?

Peace Process Update...

AND UNDER THE BRITISH PEACE PLAN EVERYONE ANNOUNCES CEASEFIRES WHICH NEITHER SIDE BELIEVES; THEN YOU SPEND 16 MONTHS MAKING ABSOLUTELY NO PROGRESS WHATSOEVER, AND THEN EVERYONE CAN START KILLING EACH OTHER ALL OVER AGAIN!



Letters to the Editor

New law, new man, new town

AS A sufferer of Friedreich's Ataxia, a crippling disease to the nervous system, I have experienced the positive medicinal effects of cannabis over 10 years (Why I'll fight for hemp, April 17). The tremors in my head, neck and eyes are considerably reduced. My speech, which under normal circumstances is badly slurred, becomes more fluent and recognisable. These positive symptoms are compounded by the general feeling of relaxation which the substance enhances. The positive effects of cannabis use by neurological patients have long been recognised, yet the Government refuses to accept that cannabis should be immediately made available to all adults suffering from neurological diseases; the choice to use or not to use should be the prerogative of the individual.

POS Coward (Make the Leather figure, April 12) failed to say that, in the article of mine she quoted, I argued that fathers are far from redundant and what they are for is roughly the same purpose as any good-enough mother. We have 125,000 single-parent fathers in Britain; we have men who have become house husbands; we have men who are changing their priorities. Some feminists — and I'm not sure we're as scarce as Coward implies — see these men as allies.

MY friends and I were incensed by your patronising article (Strange going-on in West Sussex, April 12). Many of us came to Crawley with our well-known companies, which moved here in the 1950s to a beautifully designed industrial estate. We were pioneers but not savages, and almost at once founded art, choral, dance and dramatic societies, a museum society and countless other such ventures. It isn't true that our packed open and ballet audiences consist mainly of outsiders; we, of all ages, fill our pleasant-looking theatre. New town architecture was drab and poor in spirit but the people of Crawley are not. Mary Bristol-Jones, 78 Forester Road, Southgate, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 8EF.

line, below the heights of Boston's Beacon Hill, and inland from the Long Island shore on which Jay Gatsby and Daisy Buchanan built their houses, they do not believe that a complex combination of attitudes and attributes determines a person's social status. Only in Britain could newspapers get excited when a senior politician happens to mention that he regards himself as middle-class. Yet last week the subject filled our front pages.

Part of the reason was that the royal family — who, one way and another, had a busy week — got into the act. His Royal Highness the Prince Edward announced that the class system was dead and, since he was wrong, his obituary became the front-page lead in several tabloid newspapers. None of them was rude enough to inquire what other inexperienced television producer has ever been allowed to make a sympathetic film about one of his relations. Instead, the editorials endorsed the idea that living in Buckingham Palace

was not all that different from surviving in Peabody Buildings. After all, they are both in London SW1. The Evening Standard doctored a picture of John Prescott in order to prove his new class status. Since they added a bottle of champagne to the family table, we must assume that they regard the middle-classes as defined by their conspicuous consumption.

When I was in my teens — hoping to join, rather than abolish, the middle-classes — I thought of them as industrious, thrifty, reticent and, above all, respectable. I admired the work ethic which distinguished them from the licentious aristocracy and the underlying poor, and believed that they spent their disposable income on books not alcohol. Perhaps I was wrong. But then we all have our different ways of defining class — as Alan Clark demonstrated in the Spectator's gossip column couple of weeks ago. He told the story of how, in his judgment, Charles

Why I love London so

BEFORE we rush into something as alien to our political culture as a directly-elected mayor for London (Sites for sore eyes, April 16), it is worth pausing for a little reflection. Firstly, the sort of strong government Norman Foster advocates was something we suffered from at the hands of Margaret Thatcher for over a decade; far from refreshing democracy, it brought it into disrepute. Secondly, there is evidence, particularly from the US, that directly-elected mayors have not lived up to the standards required by their office. Not so long ago, people such as Robert Moses in New York made their name campaigning for "good government" in the face of endemic corruption. He went on to be discredited for his dictatorial style.

Thirdly, the expression "many hands make light work" has something to commend it. Experience with the last administration at the GLC made me aware of how a team of politicians, with a clear programme, backed by a popular mandate and a leader who understood the importance of delegation, will always deliver infinitely more than one person holding all the controls. As a Londoner having waited a decade for my voice to be expressed through the ballot box, I am happy to support the party that puts before me the

Nurses' voice

YOUR article (RCN backed rapist nurse, April 20) said that our position is "ambivalent". This is not the case. As a trade union, the RCN represents individual members who need our advice and help, whatever their circumstances. As a union representing over 300,000 nurses, we are in a unique position to reflect their collective views. Nursing's regulatory body, the NMC, decided for the second time in a year — to restore a convicted rapist to its register. Many nurses are concerned that this could undermine the public's trust in nursing as a whole. In 1988 the RCN represented My Choy. Ten years later, the UKCC reinstated him to the register. That is the decision we are challenging. Christine Hancock, RCN Secretary, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0AB.

Sweet but sour

THE decision by European Commissioners to lift the long-standing restriction on the use of vegetable fats in chocolate (Great success for UK's oily choc, April 18) is a bombshell for cocoa producers throughout the Third World. It won't be long before multinationals try to influence all national governments to allow in chocolate-manufacturing in all states. When that happens the already-low income of the small cocoa farmers, mostly in Africa, will fall still further. There is no evidence that consumers in Europe want this change. And there have been no guarantees from the multinational companies to pass on the cost-savings they make from using cheaper vegetable fats. The net result will be that both consumers and cocoa farmers will lose out. Philip Angler, Managing Director, Traidcraft, Kingsway North, Gateshead NE11 0NE.

most attractive programme for the capital. The idea that the sort of person being floated as a suitable candidate for mayor will somehow be above politics is naive and dangerous nonsense. George Nicholson, Chair, GLC Planning Committee 1983-86, 6 Copperfield Street, London SE1 0EP.

WHILE I applaud Norman Foster's call for a new vision for London, there is one possible answer to the problems he outlines which he, and other distinguished speakers (including Tony Blair) failed to mention during the Architecture Foundation's debate last week, namely devolution. The concentration of wealth and opportunity in London is one of the reasons why people "choose" to live in it — but at what cost to the rest of the country and, eventually, to London itself?

On current projections, an additional 1.6 million houses will be required in London and its environs over the next 10 to 20 years. Because we are rightly concerned at the levels of homelessness in the region, few have questioned the practicality, or the wisdom, of development on this scale. Surely, the solution is not to embark on "tail-chasing" by attempting to meet the demand but, within a national

A Labour cut that will benefit no one

LABOUR'S plan to exclude 16- to 18-year-olds from child benefit (Labour looks to swap school for dole, April 20) will be catastrophic for many low-income families just above the benefit level. Child benefit is the only help we get for this age group doing A-levels or on vocational courses, where much of the equipment has to be funded by the family. I know this as I had to support my son through an art course. This group do not get any student grants.

Do many people realise that child benefit has, in reality, already been abolished for people receiving state benefits as the amount is deducted in the living-allowance calculation? If you receive £15 for your child on state benefit the £10.40 child benefit is deducted — leaving £4.60. J Farnaghan, 37 Glebe Crescent, Witham, Essex CM8 2EJ.

If we lost £80 a month in child benefit for our two sons we would no longer be able to feed and clothe them properly. Many teenagers already leave home because their parents cannot support them. It is terrible to think that our sons, when they are 16 and 18, might do the same. What Terry Mullins, 41 Penn Road, London N7 9RE.

A Country Diary

NORWICH: As I lie in bed at night I can hear them at it, and even daybreak seems to bring no loss of appetite, since the soft purring that often accompanies their love-making filters through the open window with the first light of dawn. In fact, I have become so intrigued by their sexual antics that, at the risk of being arrested as a peeping tom, I've set up tripod and telescope in our bedroom and focused it on next door. They seem totally uninhibited by this scrutiny, their limbs and bodies writhing on top of one another in an orgy of couplings. One of my favourite sights is the male's head sticking proudly out the window, the silky-white throat pumping promiscuously to and out as he sings to his lovers. I should admit at this stage that I'm not talking about our neighbour, but our neighbour's frogs, which are spawning in his pond. So far the highest headcount is 20, which is a good population for a pool about a metre square. Nor need this reflect the total

numbers present. There was the case of a toad colony destroyed by a south Norfolk hrip, which had previously yielded no larger count than 250. However, when it came to trying to salvage this doomed population, no less than 4,084 toads were recovered. Road developments are one of several threats to Britain's amphibians, the most important being urban spread, water pollution and habitat deterioration in the wider countryside. Since 1950 it is estimated that 75 per cent of rural ponds have been lost. Fortunately, these problems have been partly offset by increased interest in wildlife, gardening and the construction of ponds. So, if you too wish to enjoy the dawn song of a love-stricken frog, then get out the plastic sheet and spade and dig for Britain's amphibians. Anyone seeking advice on making a wildlife pond can contact Froggite, Triton House, Bramfield, Halesworth, Suffolk. MARK COCKER

is to escape many of the problems of racial prejudice, and that the working women who suffer the worst discrimination are hourly-paid skivvies not highly-qualified executives. That is why I want to spread money about Social groups are determined by their relationship to the means of production. It is just my luck to begin spouting Marxism at the moment when nobody else believes a word that he wrote.

Enough of the academic analysis and on to the cheap political points. However we define the middle-classes, we can be sure of their continued ability to look after themselves. Not only have they convinced the political parties that they guard the path to power, they have persuaded all sorts of experts that they drive the engine of growth and generate society's creative impulse. Worst still, they make us talk about them all the time. What class is John Prescott? With any luck, he will help to bring on the day when we all answer: "Who cares?"

by the Duke of Marlborough. Apparently Clark was invited to shoot at Blenheim and arrived "with a couple of brand new Purdeys" — a reference not to the character played by Joanna Lumley in The Avengers but to a make of gun. Clark believes that gentlemen inherit their property. He once accused Michael Heseltine of buying his own furniture. Clark — who was only learning to shoot — brought with him a person of unmistakably working-class origin, who was introduced as his "loader", but was really his coach. At lunch, he asked if his tutor could join in the picnic. "Teaching you how to eat, too, is he?" inquired his gracious host, and Clark — who was never noted for the subtlety of his sense of humour — rejoiced that birth and breeding had once more triumphed over commerce and industry.

Not wanting to be either didactic or pedantic — two boring middle-class attributes — I simply observe that there are two views about who be-

صلى الله عليه وسلم

Calcutta Diary

Suzanne Goldenberg

FOR outsiders, it remains one of the strangest rituals in a city where old habits die hard: watching the rats come out. Each afternoon, clerks from government offices gather at Curzon Park, in the heart of Calcutta, to watch a multitude of rodents burrowing into the ground.

While their mothers smile on serenely, children reach across a low barrier to within inches of the rats, depositing vegetable peelings from the vendors selling snacks nearby.

"This is very beautiful, can't you see that," said one office worker, tossing a few peanuts over the railing, which thankfully the rats appear to respect.

If you banish for a moment a visceral fear, the scene is a study in the middle of the city, the officer worker said. He shrugged off fears of pestilence and disease.

Unlike New Delhi and Bombay, where success is equated with money, Calcuttians have a nostalgic definition of accomplishment: being well-read in Bengali as well as conversant with Western culture and knowing how to engage others in conversation.

No other city in India takes its leisure so seriously. In the early morning, retired couples take a turn around the Victoria Memorial, while local teams play football on the Maidan, a huge green expanse in the middle of town.

Flogging a dead clothes horse

Commentary Mark Lawson

IN THE discussion of a possible British Republic which has featured in the coverage of the Queen's 70th birthday, many writers have fantasised about a "sale of the crown jewels" following the fall of the House of Windsor.

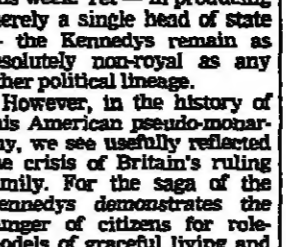
It is certainly an exhaustive auction. The legendary Kennedy self-mythologising is apparent in some items her children have offered for sale. Here, for example, is the 1992 BMW which was Jackie's last set of wheels. Most families would drive the car of the deceased down to the nearest second-hand dealer, but the Kennedys' apparently hope to capitalise on the premium imposed by the driving seat's daily brush with history.

library. Only a JFK-mono-graphic golf bag and club and the security tags worn by the First Family on presidential tours — are for sale at Sotheby's. These are little wisps of history. Equally, the buyer of lot 886 — "A stereoscopic viewer and 21 slides of JFK as President" — may legitimately speculate whether she ever raised the viewer to her wet widow's eyes.

chintz slipcover" once bore her weight. Some of the jewellery comes with photographs providing documentary evidence that they were worn at such a trendy signing or gala; but only by wearing the framed photo on a ribbon around their neck could women illustrate its historical significance.

JACKIE'S auction, though, is a Carier and Van Cleeff sale, a Manhattan art gallery's exhibition, an antiquarian book dealer's fair. America's uncrowned queen represented — for at least two generations of Americans — style. The central fantasy of many well-heeled American women was to go shopping with Jackie Kennedy. At Sotheby's this week, a version of this dream can now be realised.

One member one vote and no clout



Paul Foot

MILITANTS TIGHTEN GRIP ON UNION headlines about the National Union of Teachers' Easter conference. We were told that a group of unrepresentative anti-union militants had defied democracy by protecting the power of their conference to decide union policy.



Paul Foot

Here's a question, though. Why do all trade union constitutions designate their conferences as their sovereign policy-making bodies? Did the fact that there are more union members than conference delegates somehow escape them?

insipid response of the union leaders to this shocking development. Unison recently broadcast an excellent advertisement in which a horde of previously-ignored little creatives overcome a bear by shouting together: "Get Out Of The Way". Such a shout, organised by Unison across London, would soon bring Brent council to heel, but Unison officials seem to be playing the whole scandal down.

IN Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, for the Radio 4's A Question, I engage in a long post-programme discussion with a fellow panellist, Professor Edna Longley. We talk about the sectarian, all-out cultural explosion in Northern Ireland over the last two or three decades.

MR BEGG'S is also a beef farmer. Most Unionist beef farmers all over Northern Ireland are lobbying hard to have their cows classified as Irish so they can avoid the EU ban on British beef. It seems there is hardly any BSE in Ireland, North or South. Flying back over Larnac, I had an uplifting vision of thousands of sturdy Unionist farmers all over the six Counties teaching their cows to moo in Gaelic.



Justice for breakfast

ONE of the worst casualties of the Government's attempt to appease its Europhobic nation which cherishes human rights and the rule of law. The Government's hostile propaganda against the two European Courts (of Human Rights — in Strasbourg, and of Justice — in Luxembourg) is calculated to undermine their authority. It is currently lobbying other European governments to pressure the European Court of Human Rights to soften its stance on alleged breaches of human rights.

by the large number of cases in which the European Court has found the UK in breach of human rights, often for want of remedies within our own legal system. The Government was particularly incensed by the "Death on the Rock" judgment, which prompted a hasty and intemperate attack on the Court by Michael Heseltine, coupled with a threat to remove the right of access to the Court in cases against the UK. A threat which, had it been enacted, would have isolated Britain.

separation of powers and judicial independence. David Maxwell Fyfe, one of the Conservatives involved in the making of the Convention, described it as "a beacon to the peoples behind the Iron Curtain." Yet the present British government would have the beacon burn less bright.

enlarged by the new democracies of the East. As our government urges rapid enlargement of the Court it will be impossible to ensure the even application of Community law, and to prevent its abuse by the Community institutions and by other states. Claims that Britain is seeking to curb the Court's powers are designed for short-term domestic political gain, but are ultimately damaging to the Court's authority.

When the Government needs the Court to come to the rescue of vital British interests — as in challenging the legality of the ban on the export of British beef — it should not be surprised if European judges are sceptical about the depth of its commitment to the European rule of law.

Britain's attempt to undermine the European Courts is a cynical move to deflect criticism from its domestic failures, says Anthony Lester

Gordon Brown argues that education should be a lifelong opportunity available to everyone

Strife begins at 16

WHY do 90 per cent of the children of the professional classes stay on at school after 16 — but only 20 per cent of the children of the unskilled? And why is it that children from low income families with the same exam results as the children of professionals are almost half as likely to stay on at school or go to college?

portunity, earning power and therefore national prosperity. The challenge for Labour is to end this cycle of educational failure, unemployment and poverty. This requires a far bolder idea of equality of opportunity than in the past. It means lifelong opportunities for all to learn and work, and a duty on government to make it happen. Not the old idea of the 11-plus escape route from poverty, or the current 16-plus route to higher education — narrow ladders that only a few can climb. Making equality of opportunity real means no person should be unemployed long

nothing at all. Nothing better illustrates this educational lottery than the random system of educational maintenance allowances paid to poorer families with children staying on after 16. Only 3 per cent of families receive them and payments vary from £20 a week in some regions to 80 pence a week in others.

16. The mother of a sixth-former at Eton or Harrow receives it from 16 until 18. Indeed, 25 per cent of 17-year-old pupils whose mothers receive child benefit are at private, fee-paying schools. In effect, child benefit is a subsidy for the school fees of the wealthy rather than an incentive to assist the education of the very poor. Labour's review will look at the case for more help for those who need it.

Two egalitarian principles are at stake. Every teenager should have a qualification and a skill. And educational opportunity after 16 — lifelong learning — will become real not least as we expand the numbers staying on at school or college. Economic efficiency and social justice demand it.

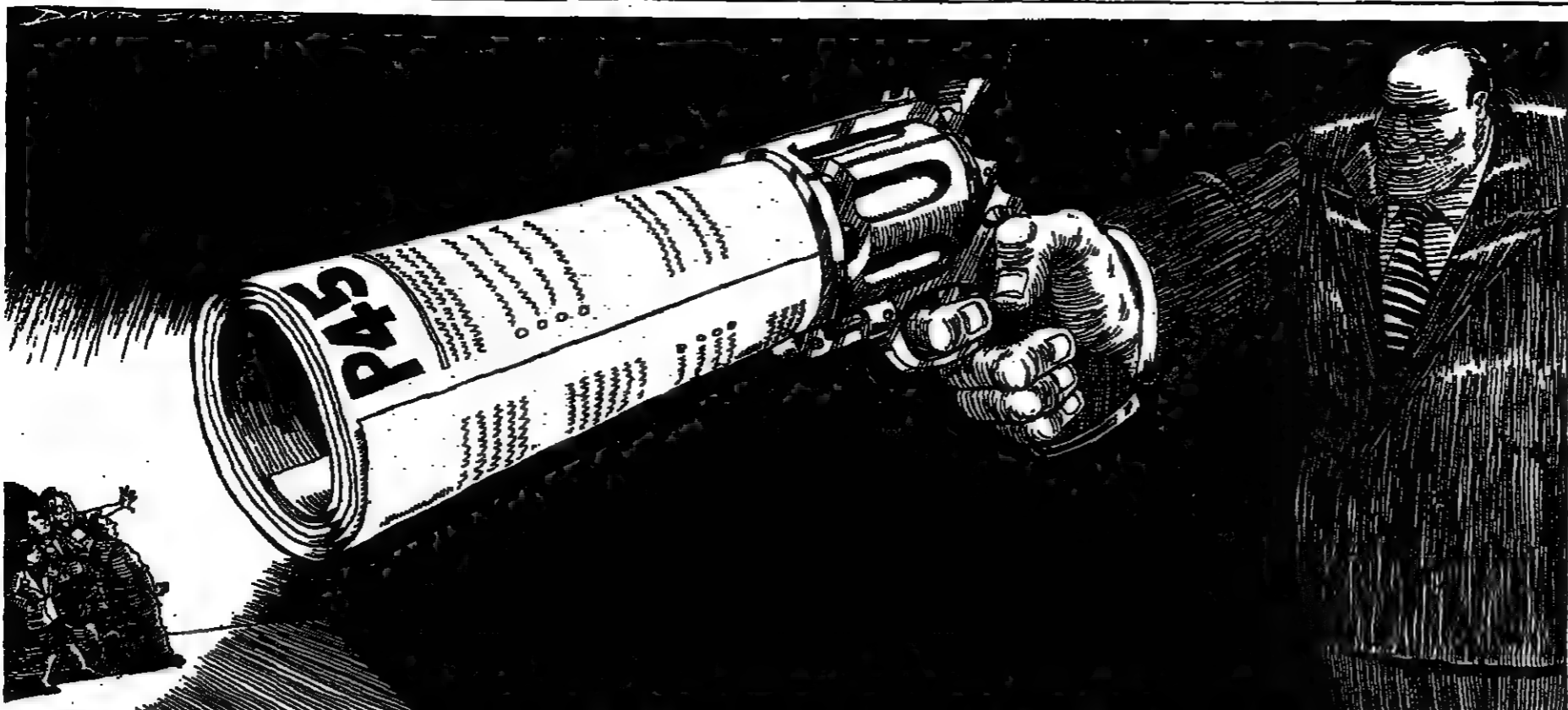
Boy talk

Harry

forget



Advertisement for CompuServe, featuring the text 'the m Internet' and 'CompuServe' with various service details and contact information.



If the pensioners of today think it's tough...

The IMF is using a novel accounting system to scare us about the coming retirement bill. SARAH RYLE reports

IT IS small comfort for those people struggling to cope on a state pension, but the OAPs of future generations are unlikely to have it so good as those presently retired.

According to the IMF, there is a link between the degree of unfairness in a nation's fiscal policies and the extent of its overall fiscal problems.

Conditions affecting budgets themselves have changed markedly. The post-war baby boom boosted the labour force, supporting relatively few pensioners.

Dealing with the dirty end of jobs for life



Larry Elliott

U-HUH, I know what you're thinking. Did he fire six thousand, or was it only five? Well, to tell you the truth, in all the excitement I kind of lost count myself.

feeling factor among the shoppers loading a hundred pounds' worth of groceries into the backs of the Volvo on Saturday morning.

individualism fostered over the past two decades. Let's face it we didn't hear too much about job insecurity when it was steel workers and miners being sacked in the early 1980s.

For the Government, all this should be quite good news. With house prices and consumer spending rising, there should be a chance that the flexible middle classes will be returning to the fold before the election.

Labour Party and the Confederation of British Industry all agree this is vital - good enough reason, you might think, to last resort.

Finally, we need a culture change. For the first 30 years after the war, governments of all colours actually believed in full employment.

C&G Investment Rates Effective from 22 April 1996. Table with columns for Amount Invested, Interest Paid, Gross, and Net. Includes a section for Accounts no longer available to new investors.

Death of inflation is greatly exaggerated

ANN ROBINSON disagrees with a new book which proclaims the defeat of the age-old stalker of western economies

INFLATION has been regarded by so many for so long as "public enemy No 1" that it is hard to believe that it may be dead.

Government and central banks have changed their procedures, too. Methods of accommodating inflation through indexation of public spending, wages and prices, have been abandoned.

Prices have been falling. But the market is not homogeneous. In fact, prices are strong and even rising for quality housing in short supply in key areas.



Roger Bootle... pessimistic

Highgate crosspatch solves baffling case of capital crisis

Worm's eye Dan Atkinson

CAPITAL was something Sherlock Holmes and his quack friends were always saying, or rather, ejaculating.

too, could be handled by market incentives. But it hasn't worked. In place of the glider, the western economies resemble collectively one of those faulty supersonic jets in Thunderbirds that were forever being plucked from doom by International Rescue.

Tourist rates - bank sells

Table of tourist rates for various countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, USA.

Indicators

TODAY - UK Money supply (Mar), UK Building Societies Net New Commitments, THURSDAY - FR Consumer Price Index (Mar), FR Retail Sales (Mar), US Initial Jobless Claims (Apr), FRIDAY - JP Unemployment (Mar), JP Consumer Price Index (Mar), FR Trade Balance (Feb), WEDNESDAY - FR Industrial Production (Feb).

Cricket

Lloyd firm on Botham

Paul Weaver at Chelmsford

RAYMOND Mingw...

Yesterday they took their places on the pavilion balcony...

The was not entirely their fault...

So for Martyn Atkinson, who is also a far-fetched alternative...

This enabled England A, who are being led with some panache by Nasser Hussain...

The most encouraging cricket for the selectors has come from the opening bowlers...

The Yamahei rider (pictured above leading the second-placed Abe Criville through a bend) went with joy and pride in the winners' circle...

In cricket tunnels. The other plus has been the all-rounder Ronnie Irani...

Lloyd, the chirpy England coach, is hardly one to show his disappointment...

In the matter of Ian Botham's involvement with England affairs...

Botham still had a part to play in the future, said Lloyd.

Andrew Flintoff, the England Under-19 all-rounder, steered Lancashire to a five-wicket victory over Yorkshire...

THE TESTS First innings 123 (1st Munton 41)

ENGLAND A First innings tonight 158-5

THE TESTS Second innings 117

ENGLAND A Second innings 117



NORFUMI ABE outside the wind at Suzuka yesterday to become the first Japanese winner of a 500cc Grand Prix for 14 years.

through the race as more fancied riders struggled for control on a windy day. Alexandre Barros crashed coming out of the first bend, which may also have inhibited the field.

Brighton runners and riders

2.00 Gosden House 2.00 Crystal Heights 2.00 Kings Harmany 2.00 Victory Lane

2.30 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP 1000m

3.00 OAKLEIGH STAKES 2000m

3.30 A BICHING COOKMAKERS APRIL HANDICAP 71

3.50 HIGHLAND WAY 2.50 The Stecher 3.50 Cool Weather

4.00 HEXTOL SELLING HURDLE 2m

4.20 IAN STRAKER MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE 2m

4.50 FEDERATION BREWERY MEDALLION LAGER BEER HANDICAP 2m

5.00 FEDERAL BREWERY MEDICAL CHASE 2m

5.30 FEDERAL BREWERY MEDICAL CHASE 2m

5.50 FEDERAL BREWERY MEDICAL CHASE 2m

Nottingham with form guide

2.10 Ballybeg 2.10 Ballybeg 2.10 Ballybeg

2.30 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP 1000m

3.00 OAKLEIGH STAKES 2000m

3.30 A BICHING COOKMAKERS APRIL HANDICAP 71

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5.30 FEDERAL BREWERY MEDICAL CHASE 2m

5.50 FEDERAL BREWERY MEDICAL CHASE 2m

Racing

Guineas doubt after Duster fails to shine

Chris Hawkins

A WEEK of dramatic developments on the Classic front culminated yesterday with news that Duster is doubtful for the 1,000 Guineas...

Anthony Stroud, racing manager to Blue Duster's owner Sheikh Mohammed, and trainer David Loder were delaying a final decision until they consulted Sheikh Mohammed last night.

But Blue Duster was taken out of the Guineas betting yesterday. "We are acting on reports that she has not worked well," said Ian Wessell, spokesman for Ladbrokes...

Sheikh Mohammed may well have regrets that he did not take Blue Duster out of Dubai for the winter...

Just ahead of Scott Russell (Sunaki). The world champion Michael Doohan (Honda) finished sixth but still leads the championship standings...

Victory in the Tripleprint Greenham Stakes at Newbury on Saturday.

Pat Eddery partnered Danehill Dancer to a length and half success over Kahir Almaydan (stable companion of Beauchamp King) but will ride Storm Trooper for Henry Cecil in the Guineas.

Mick Kinane is expected to take the mount on Danehill Dancer, who has improved in him, although Neville Callaghan, his trainer, does not want the ground too firm at Newmarket.

Danehill Dancer appeared to frank the form of last year's Dewhurst Stakes when he was two and a half lengths second to Almahmud and it worked well.

Mark Of Esteem is an 8-1 chance but he will be learned about this Dubai based colt between now and the Guineas.

The interesting horse for the 2,000 is Royal Apple, who can still be backed at 10-1 despite achieving the Coventry Cracks Middle Park Stakes treble last season.

In the Middle Park he slammed Kahir Almaydan nearly six lengths and on that form has excellent claims, but the worry about him is his ill-fated colt in the stamens.

Jockey Gerald Moss won the other Group races at Longchamp, taking the Prix Greffulhe on Ragmar — a French Derby prospect — and the Prix de Fontainebleau on Archambault.

Andre Fabre had a disappointing afternoon, with the highly regarded Miss Tahiti and Loup Solitaire both well beaten.

In the 2,000 Guineas Almaydan and Beauchamp King still share favouritism at 8-1 with Ladbrokes, but Danehill Dancer has been cut to 8-1 — Coral go 10's — following his

Hexham National Hunt card

Nottingham with form guide

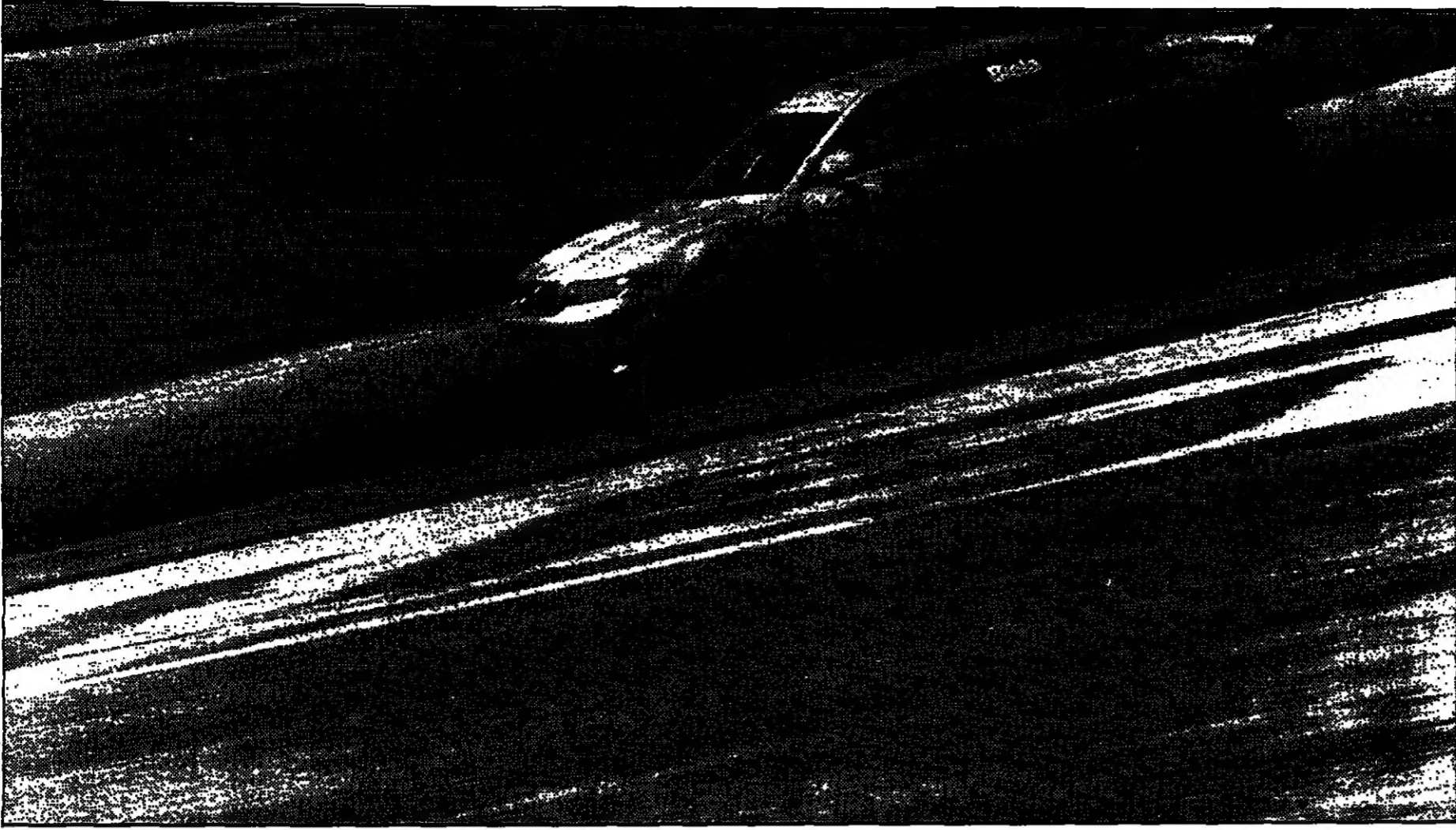
Nottingham with form guide

سكنا من الامل

RACELINE 0930 168+ COMMENTARY NOTT'HAM 101 201 BRIGHTON 102 202 HEXHAM 103 203 FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168 MORNING LINE THE TIMEFORM 368

Jungle flop PARROT Jungle, trained by John Dunlop and ridden by Pat Eddery, could only finish seventh behind locally-trained Beauty To Petriolo...

Blurred first time: HEXHAM 2.50 Rampant Rosie; 3.50 Trevelthan; Warrigam; 4.20 No Word.



Vorsprung durch 50 million marks... Frank Biela (above) won the third round for Audi whereas James Thompson (below) crashed at Paddock Bend to add to Vauxhall's problems

Audi good for many rounds in saloons

IMAGINE a world of motor racing in which the competing drivers take off their helmets after a hard-fought race and light a fat cigar, tuck their overalls, cuddle their children, and then take the trouble to praise one another's efforts. Welcome to the British Touring Car Championship.

Frank Biela and Joachim Winkelhock were the winners of yesterday's third and fourth rounds of the championship, sharing the spoils in two separate 38-lap races held over the switchback 1.2-mile Indy circuit at Brands Hatch. That is the way the series is organised: two rounds at each of 13 meetings, so that the spectators get two starts and two finishes for their money.

Since Biela also won both races at the season's first meeting, at Donington Park a fortnight ago, the 31-year-old German and his four-wheel-drive Audi A4 lead the standings with 54 points to the 35 of Alain Menu (Renault Laguna), who finished second in both yesterday's races, and the 29 of Rickard Rydell (Volvo 850), who took a fourth and a third. Those standings are reflected in the manufacturers' championship, in which Audi (63 points) lead Renault (48), Volvo (38) and BMW (37).

For Winkelhock, third place in the day's first race and victory in the second returned a long-awaited return to form for BMW's #2. It was in fact the team's first British win since August 1994. After a disastrous 1995 the company commissioned the experienced Schnitzer outfit to revamp their BTCC effort, with assistance from Gordon Murray, designer of Nelson Piquet's world championship Brabhams and more recently McLaren's Le Mans-winning GT car. Winkelhock now stands fourth in the championship, and the 38-year-old German driver will be hopeful of regaining the title he won in 1993.



Photographs: Tom Jenkins

words of Bernie Ecclestone, president of the Formula One Constructors' Association, who recently suggested that touring cars might soon become a threat to the long-challenged supremacy of grand prix racing.

Not that the BTCC is a cut-price formula. Each of the top manufacturers invests at least £5 million a season, and in the case of Audi, which has come into the series this season with the clear intention of steamrolling the opposition, perhaps three or four times that figure.

And the BTCC is a cut-price formula. Each of the top manufacturers invests at least £5 million a season, and in the case of Audi, which has come into the series this season with the clear intention of steamrolling the opposition, perhaps three or four times that figure.

Richard Williams at Brands Hatch sees the British Touring Car Championship lose some of its charm

good start enabled him to hold off the BMW until the third lap, when Winkelhock went inside him at Druids, followed by Menu. Ten laps later Rydell also went past, as eventually did Biela, giving the race its final order.

Painted silver, with careful attention to such details as a fitted heat-reflecting cover to keep the cockpit cool on the grid, the pretty A4s evoke the pre-war heyday of the Mercedes and Auto-Union teams, maintaining a tradition of thorough preparation. In fact Audi was one of the quartet of firms making up the original Auto-Union conglomerate (the others, all long extinct, were Horch, Wanderer and DKW), symbolised in the four linked rings making up the firm's badge and painted in red on the sides of the racing cars, just as it was on the noses of the cars raced by Rossmeyer and Nuvolari in the Thirties. So this is an effort with history on its side.

Elsewhere other names familiar from Formula One have been enlisted in the battle for prestige. Frank Williams runs the Renault effort, with several former F1 engineers among the crew, and Tom Walkinshaw, the new

owner of the Arrows team, is behind Volvo's remarkable feat of image transformation.

A wonderful start enabled Biela, who won last season's world championship, to get the drop on the front-row men, Menu and Winkelhock, in the first race. The Audi's four-wheel drive giving it superior traction on the difficult fall-away camber of Brands Hatch's pit straight, Biela came out of Paddock Bend with a lead that would last the rest of the race, although the leading trio were covered by Paul Radusch (Ford Mondeo), Robert Ravaglia (BMW) and the British champion John Cleland (Vauxhall Vectra).

John Bintliffe, Biela's young British team-mate, lined up alongside Winkelhock on the front row and the grid for the second race. A

man was apprehended by the Australian's caddy Tony Navarro before being arrested on charges of being drunk and disorderly.

Norman was accosted during the 1986 US Open at Shinnecock Hills by an unruly fan and on that occasion he offered to meet the offender behind the grandstand on the completion of his round.

Last month, during the Honda Classic, Faldo intervened on behalf of Curtis Strange, whom he beat in the crucial singles at the Ryder Cup match in Rochester last September. A heckler shouted: "Strange, you are a Ryder Cup choker." Faldo insisted that

Golf

Russell finds the security

Michael Brittan in Cannes

RAYMOND RUSSELL turned rich promise into rapid fulfilment when he birdied the last two holes to win the Cannes Open yesterday by two strokes. This did the 29-year-old from Prestonpans, near Edinburgh, master a spirited challenge from England's David Carter and score his first victory in only his ninth outing on the PGA European Tour.

champion in the first 11 weeks of the season. Although he established his credentials in the Walker Cup in 1993, it took him three attempts to qualify at the Tour School, where he finally succeeded last November in 19th place. He began his Riviera campaign with the limited objective of gaining a top-10 place to gain entry to this week's Spanish Masters in Valencia. He ended it richer by more than £86,000 and with his prospects secure.

to the 18th into the greenside pond and Carter, aided by a fortunate rebound from a tree, drew the level. However, Russell played the superior tee-shot to the short 17th, holding from six feet for a crucial fifth, birdie, and played the last perfectly whereas Carter visited two bunkers.

Heckler targets Norman

David Henderson at Hilton Head

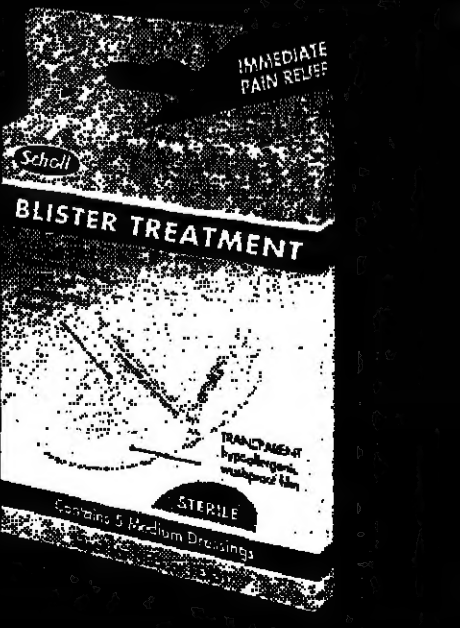
NICK FALDO and Greg Norman were each given armed security in the final round of the MCI Classic here in South Carolina yesterday after another outbreak of hoodlumism.

Norman was the recipient of southern inhospitality for the second successive year during Saturday's third round when he confronted a heckler who had shouted: "Why did you choke? You cost me money."

Norman was accosted during the 1986 US Open at Shinnecock Hills by an unruly fan and on that occasion he offered to meet the offender behind the grandstand on the completion of his round.

26 MILES

ONE MEDAL



Scholl PUTS YOU BACK ON YOUR FEET.

Sport in brief

Showman O'Sullivan in Crucible clanger

THE world snooker championship got off to an unsteady start at the weekend in Sheffield with the hot favourite almost falling at the first and one of the game's most colourful characters, Ronnie O'Sullivan, being accused of publicly taking the mick out of an opponent, writes *Clive Everton*.

"I'm cueing well but my safety was amateurish," said the defending champion Stephen Hendry after scraping a 10-8 win over Jason Ferguson, who had taken a total of two frames off the world No. 1 in their three previous matches.

SAMPRAS goes into clay mode
PETE SAMPRAS tightened his grip on the world No. 1 ranking by beating his fellow American Richey Reneberg 6-4, 7-5 in the Japan Open final yesterday. Sampras then said he would take the next three weeks off to prepare for tennis's clay-court season and the French Open. "The problem I have on clay is my patience," he said. "It's a whole new frame of mind when I walk on clay."

RICHARD blunts Lance in Liège
THE Swiss cyclist Pascal Richard recorded his second World Cup victory yesterday, taking the Liège-Bastogne-Liège narrowly from the pre-race favourite Lance Armstrong in the final 20 metres of a three-man sprint into the Belgian city.

BOWLS in 'intimidation' spat
THE supposedly sedate world of bowls ran into further logo trouble yesterday when a Cambridgeshire team in the All England Under-25 Indoor Championships successfully complained they were "intimidated" when their semi-final opponents turned up with "1983 and 1984 Champions" emblazoned on their shirts.

WOODS warns to GB on ice
"WE PROVED we can play with these teams if we stay out of the penalty box," was the apt summing-up by the Great Britain ice hockey coach Peter Woods after his team had come to their World Championship Pool B schedule with an impressive 4-2 victory over Belarus, writes *Toby Allen in Eindhoven*.

CLAYMORES slay Dragons
THE Scottish Claymores drew their biggest crowd of 12,928 to Murrayfield yesterday and celebrated with their first home victory in six attempts, punishing the Barcelona Dragons' every error to win 23-13, writes *Michael Gorman*.

BITONS set sail for Savannah
THE French Semaine Olympique is giving the British sailing team for Savannah, where the Atlanta regatta will be held, a welcome late chance to hone racing skills, writes *Peter Fisher in Hove*. Shirley Robertson has made her mark in the Europe class with scores of 1, 6, 2, 3, 1 in her first five races. She has one more three-race day to end the qualifying for the "gold" fleet.

HOYER gears up for Olympics
POUL-ERIK HOYER won the European badminton title for a third successive time at Herning, Denmark, writes *Richard Jago*. Hoyer must be in line for an Olympic medal on the evidence of his 15-7, 15-11 victory over his 21-year-old Danish compatriot Peter Rasmussen. He cleverly initiated rallies at the net and used them to lift and tick his opponent to the back and inhibit the dangerous smash of Rasmussen, who looks very much like a man of the near future.

SOCER: THE RETURN OF THE ROKER ROAR



Close shave... Sunderland's Michael Bridges hits a post. Michael Walker in the North-east checks on the Wearside team manager's weekend and wonders what lies round the corner for the club and nearby Darlington, both of them seemingly still strapped for cash

Sunderland party falls a little flat

KEVIN KEEGAN did it with Newcastle in 1993, Bryan Robson did it with Middlesbrough in 1985, and Peter Reid has now done it with Sunderland in 1996. In their first full seasons of management in the North-east all three have taken their clubs to automatic promotion.

Reid joined the triumvirate on Saturday, hearing the news as he watched Darlington, and judging by his unshaven appearance he had, in true Danny Blanchflower style, already done his celebrating.



Finding something to celebrate... at Roker Park there was a carnival atmosphere on the terraces if not on the pitch

PHOTOGRAPHS: MICHAEL STEELE

max and means Sunderland now require a point at home to West Brom on Saturday to clinch the championship.

Whatever doubts there might have been about their appetite dissolved after an early volley of abuse from Paul Bracewell to Dariusz Kubicki. The assistant manager's anger was a bit harsh, especially as Sunderland started brightly and Richard Ord shot over narrowly in the first meaningful attack.

It was a while before they had another, however, and as the atmosphere flattened the odd gaps in the crowd became more conspicuous. If Sunderland cannot fill Roker Park for a game of this significance then what chance for the proposed 40,000 all-seater stadium at Monkwearmouth next year? The locals are clearly unconvinced about the present plans to give Kevin Ball in midfield and

Lee Howey up front yesterday that is understandable. Howey was included because Paul Stewart is suspended, and as with the former England player, mobility is not his strength. Height is, and he had a chance late in the first half but his header caused little anxiety.

Twice Mike Sheron, seeking his eighth consecutive goal, should have given Stoke a lead, although the worst miss of the day belonged to the midfielder Mark Devlin. Running into the Sunderland area five minutes after the interval he met Simon Sturridge's pass first time but side-footed wide. It was an elementary mistake and followed Stoke's moment of the match, when Graham Potter thumped a volley against the bar from 20 yards.

Michael Bridges then had a chance to give Bury an unlikely shock, but having

turned Latus Sigurdson the teenager struck the outside of the post. And that reinforced the impression that Reid's most immediate task is to get his hands on the money the director Bob Murray pledged mid-season.

A figure of £10 million was mentioned then, but yesterday Murray would say only that Reid "will be given more money than any other manager in the history of this club". Not completely reassuring for a club with a record outlay of £900,000, and Reid must be aware that none of the previous managers to bring Sunderland into the top flight survived the next season. Not even Bob Stokoe.

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Which was a shame as Platt's men had just whipped the side three places above them and consolidated their own play-off position, doing so in front of 4,325 people; their biggest crowd of the season for their biggest win of the season.

Platt is a magnanimous man and did not begrudge Reid his moment. Reid, of similar disposition, praised Darlington's fluent performance. He could hardly do otherwise, as from the start they had torn at Bury with speed and style.

Two down in 17 minutes. Reid's men had just whipped the side three places above them and consolidated their own play-off position, doing so in front of 4,325 people; their biggest crowd of the season for their biggest win of the season.

Reid steals Darlington's rare thunder. PITY the poor man who finds himself appointed manager of Darlington. The job is notoriously insecure - the incumbent, Jim Platt, is their eighth in five years - and on Saturday, when a rare moment of glory came along, it was overshadowed by the feats of another manager sitting in the crowd.

The man was Peter Reid, heartily popping champagne corks for the cameras as news of Derby's draw, and hence Sunderland's promotion, came through. The press pack descended on Reid in the directors' box, leaving Platt an isolated figure.

Reid, captain on Saturday, was dismissed with Oldham's full-back Makin after an exchange of blows. But Reid was not the only target of Nicholl's anger. The manager questioned the attitude of several players. "Some of the players have never achieved anything in their lives. It won't be like this in the next couple of years - given the opportunity."

Reid stole the thunder from Platt, who had just won the play-off final of 1994 by Leicester City and then struggled to make an impression last season. Pickering realised he had to gamble once more on Derby winning promotion and reverted to being a guy who just can't say no.

When his team eased up the table last autumn, however, Pickering realised he had to gamble once more on Derby winning promotion and reverted to being a guy who just can't say no.

The bottom line, therefore, continues to be that Derby County cannot afford another season in the First Division - and there is more. They are now committed to building a ground at a cost of £20 million and desperately need the revenue that a place in the Premiership would bring.

That stadium is based on us going into the Premier League," Pickering said. "If we miss out then we are going to have to trim." To try to convince the club of his hard-headedness he has called another halt to spending.

Against Birmingham the home side were stony and unimaginative, though they were blunted by the absence of their leading scorer. Sturridge through suspension. At the back, Stiles swept up immaculately on the hour when Birmingham brought on the 67 7th Francis in the 20th minute of the Croatian's 20th minute the air were exposed - food for thought for England on Wednesday.

Francis's near-post flick set up Breen for the headed equaliser in the 74th minute. Derby had gone ahead when Simpson, partnering the disappointing £1 million striker Ward in attack, had headed a toe-poke past Gremiskin 18 minutes earlier.

Leicester City 2, Huddersfield Town 1 Heskey looks a priceless asset

HEMILE HESKEY was seized and flattered by more than a passing resemblance to Faustino Asprilla. "Really?" he chuckled. "No one's ever said that before. I don't know about that."

At 18 his England, although Leicester have recently found him on the left to accommodate Steve Claridge. On Saturday Heskey provided the £1.2 million striker with Leicester's second goal after moving dazzling control to squeeze in a cross. Earlier he set up Walsh's strike with a centre which looked pin-point but which he felt was "a bit lucky really". There was also a 20-yard shot on to the post and a scorching run through the middle which almost led to a third goal.

Leicester's attitude to Heskey will say much about their ambition. Linaker, Smith, McAllister and Joseph were all sold rather than built around. O'Neill knows that his task is to do things differently, although his own future at the club remains uncertain.

Scotland lose three more for Copenhagen

SCOTLAND have lost another three players from the squad to face Denmark on Wednesday. After last week's withdrawal of Duncan Ferguson, injury claimed the Celtic midfielder Fayal McStay and the defenders Colin Calderwood of Spurs and Alan McLaren of Rangers yesterday.

With Motherwell's Rob McKinnon pulling out of the pool for the B international in Falster tomorrow night, Craig Brown is left with 36 of the original 41 players he selected for the two groups. He has not called in replacement players. "We have cover for the two games," he said.

He also answered criticism of his decision to tackle the European champions on their own ground in the last match before he announces the Euro '96 squad on May 2. "We have to be tested. England seem to have taken on comfortable games at Wembley so far and I don't think that type of match would help us. But criticism is not new to me."

Millwall 0, Oldham Athletic 1 Heated Nicholl reads the riot act

JIMMY NICHOLL has two games in which to pull Millwall out of their tailspin towards relegation. That may be the easy part. The manager has also promised to correct his players' discipline "once and for all".

After this largely self-inflicted defeat by Oldham, Nicholl confronted his players for a heated hour - "I got personal with a few of them" - and I don't think that must now confront the prospect of demotion after their startling decline from First Division leadership to 19th place in four months.

The riot cause, said Nicholl, is another set of damning statistics: Millwall started on Saturday with an entire back four and a forward suspended; they ended it with Alex Rae sent off, their fourth dismissal in six games and seventh of the season.

Second Division: Blackpool 1, Swindon Town 1 Allardyce goes over the top

ADAY memorable only for the confirmation of Swindon's return to the First Division was already sliding from the memory when the unforfeitable actions of one man elevated it from the mundane to the extraordinary.

The Blackpool manager Sam Allardyce should have been smugly content with his team's having garnered a point they hardly deserved. But as Swindon's Steve McMahon delivered his "over the moon" speech to media invited into one of Bloomfield Road's corridors by an official Football League representative, Allardyce - quite literally - waded in.

As the red mist descended he physically barged aside journalists who apparently had convened in the wrong spot. "That was embarrassing and outrageous," said McMahon, some 30 seconds after he had been taunted with cries of "Scouse git" by a Blackpool employee.

Portsmouth 0, Barnsley 0 Fenwick finds value in dross

IT WAS four minutes into the game when David Watson got the chance to show why he is one of the most highly regarded young players in the game. The Barnsley goalkeeper tipped Rees's volley brilliantly over the bar and Portsmouth had to be content with a point.

It was only the second time the home side had gone close - Ball's turn and shot sailed just wide midway through the first half - and with Barnsley failing to produce a single shot in reply, a thoroughly depressing afternoon fizzled out to a chorus of half-hearted boos.

Yet at the end of it all Portsmouth's manager Terry Fenwick was pleased with his side, and Barnsley's Danny Wilson said: "It was a good performance to come here at this time of the season and get a point."

Derby build their hopes

DO NOT adjust your set, as they used to say in the early days of television. The picture is still hazy but it should clear next Sunday when Crystal Palace visit the Baseball Ground in a game that is likely to settle the second automatic promotion slot.

Lionel Pickering, for one, will be praying that his black-and-white side can maintain their horizontal hold on second place. "I wouldn't want to go through this again," the 64-year-old chairman said after this painfully dull draw on Saturday. "It's going to get worse. With the likes of Man City, QPR and Bolton coming down and Swindon and Blackpool coming up it's going to be a right race next season."

After Derby had been beaten in the play-off final of 1994 by Leicester City and then struggled to make an impression last season, Pickering realised he had to gamble once more on Derby winning promotion and reverted to being a guy who just can't say no.

First Division Derby 1, B'ham C 1

Derby build their hopes

Mark Reading

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Handwritten signature: JAVICO 1500

Soccer

First Division: Wolverhampton Wanderers 0, Crystal Palace 2

Palace coup faces Cantona

Commentary

David Lacey

SO THE eagles have elected a French... Palace are not so much 30-year-olds as specialists in the art of crop rotation...

Coventry last November but it was like old times... Palace are now managed by Dave Bassett...



Doe-a-doe... Don Goodman, Wolves' 25th-minute substitute, clambers to reach a header

chances and Richards headed... doubleless undertake this summer...

There's been in this club... "I've always thought there was a lot needed doing...

Wolverhampton Wanderers... Crystal Palace manager... Wolves created several

Venables ends lingering doubt about quitting

David Lacey

TERRY VENABLES appeared to end mounting speculation that he might, after all, stay on as England coach after the European Championship in June...

getting involved in 'What if they do this?' or 'What if it doesn't?'... Stuart Pearce, who has been captaining England in the absence of David Platt...

Gould forced to make changes

BOBBY GOULD, manager of Wales, has added two new faces to his squad for Wednesday's friendly in Switzerland...

ham, picked up a groin injury in Saturday's win at Hull and is replaced by Crewe's Robbie Savage...

Weekend results

Soccer

First Division

Table of weekend soccer results for the First Division, including matches like Derby vs Birmingham, Arsenal vs Tottenham, and Liverpool vs Manchester United.

Scottish League

Table of weekend Scottish League results, including matches like Dundee vs Aberdeen, Celtic vs Rangers, and Hearts vs Hibernian.

Rugby Union

Table of weekend Rugby Union results, including matches like Bath vs Gloucester, Exeter vs Worcester, and London Wasps vs Saracens.

Baseball

Table of weekend Baseball results, including matches like Boston vs New York Yankees, Los Angeles vs San Francisco, and St. Louis vs Chicago Cubs.

Ice Hockey

Table of weekend Ice Hockey results, including matches like New York Rangers vs Philadelphia Flyers, Pittsburgh Penguins vs Washington Capitals, and Detroit Red Wings vs Chicago Blackhawks.

Tennis

Table of weekend Tennis results, including matches like Andre Agassi vs Andre Panatta, Andre Agassi vs Andre Panatta, and Andre Agassi vs Andre Panatta.

American Football

Table of weekend American Football results, including matches like Dallas Cowboys vs New York Giants, Pittsburgh Steelers vs Cleveland Browns, and San Francisco 49ers vs Los Angeles Rams.

Basketball

Table of weekend Basketball results, including matches like Los Angeles Lakers vs Chicago Bulls, New York Knicks vs Boston Celtics, and Miami Heat vs Orlando Magic.

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SportsGuardian

BRILLIANT SCOT BURNS UP THE ROAD TO ATLANTA

McColgan London blitz

Three wins in a row for Ceron

Stephen Bierley

TWO and a half years ago Liz McColgan, the former world 10,000 metres champion and Olympic silver medal winner, was told she would never run again. Yesterday her restoration as Britain's leading female distance runner was completed in joyous fashion when she won the London Marathon and then immediately turned her thoughts to a gold medal at this summer's Olympic Games in Atlanta.

McColgan's unbending determination to get back to the top, after a double knee operation almost ended her running career, has been a remarkable story of single-minded resilience and resolution. Indeed, such had been her remorseless pursuit of renewed success that she all but ran herself to a grinding, exhausted halt.

Then, after finishing fifth in this race last year, the 31-year-old Scot turned to Grete Waitz for help. Waitz, the legendary Norwegian distance runner, quickly cut back McColgan's murderous training schedule, substituting quality for quantity.

Waitz's immediate influence was there for all to see when McColgan finished first in the Great North Run last September. "I was so fortunate to have met my athletic heroine and to have her as my coach," said McColgan, who judged yesterday's dominant victory in 2hr 57min 55sec at most to perfection.



Flower power... and, unlike many runners, showing no sign of wilting. ANDY BLACKMORE

The men's winner, for an unprecedented third consecutive time, was Mexico's Dionicio Ceron in 2hr 10min 08sec. There was further good news for Britain when Paul Evans finished third, 40 seconds behind Ceron, although he remains unsure about running the Olympic marathon.

This was the hottest London race on record, the buds on the trees seeming visibly to fatten as more than 35,000

runners flew, flogged, or jogged their way through the capital's streets. For the elite and novice alike the conditions were far from ideal, and pre-race thoughts of ultra-fast times were quickly shelved.

McColgan's win was not without a scare, for early on three runners, Anita Haakenstad of Norway, Firaya Sultanova of Russia and Jane Salumae of Estonia, were pulling away. After 14 miles

Haakenstad had a lead of two minutes over McColgan.

"If I had been Liz I would not have allowed such a gap to develop," said Waitz, who afterwards admitted to being more than a little "nervous" at the way the race developed.

"I got a bit of a fright when I lost sight of the leaders," said McColgan, who conceded that at the halfway stage she had not felt particularly good. "But as soon as I made the

effort to get on terms I began to feel much better."

Slowly, but with an absolute inevitability, McColgan began to reel in her opponents. There is always some sadness when a lone leader, on this occasion running out of her skin, begins to fragment as this most cruel of distances takes its revenge on those who push themselves just a little too far.

McColgan, who earned in the region of £150,000 for this victory (her third marathon win in six starts), overtook Haakenstad after 20 miles, never so much as glancing at the wilting Norwegian, who eventually finished fifth.

By 17 miles I knew I was going to close the gap, but you can never take anything for granted," said McColgan. "At this point a little girl ran out on the course and I might have tripped. You just never know."

But the Scot's victory was inexorable and she finished more than two minutes ahead of the second-placed Joyce Chepchumba, of Kenya.

There is a symbiosis between McColgan and Waitz which has not only made the Scot a better technical runner but has also helped her shed a bundle of mental stress. McColgan, the devil-take-the-hindmost front runner, has been transformed.

What this victory proved was that Waitz's training schedule is spot on. Both runner and coach saw victory here as the stepping stone to success in Atlanta. In the past McColgan has proved herself capable of coping with hot and humid conditions, although virtually all marathon runners, both men and women, have serious misgivings, including Ceron.

The men's race followed a more expected pattern, with the favourites running, for the most part, in a tight swarm until the final couple of miles. Then Ceron, in yellow and black, took off like some turbo-charged bee. Belgium's Vincent Rousseau, the fastest man in the field but with a much sullied dialle of a rising thermometer, was incapable of responding to the Mexican's startling acceleration and settled for second place.

The race for third spot was between Evans and Jackson Rabiga, a little-known 19-year-old Kenyan, whose late pushing of the pace certainly aided Ceron's victory.

Afterwards the British runner refused to be drawn on his Olympic plans. Peter Whitehead and Richard Nerinx have already been pre-selected for Atlanta, subject to fitness, and Evans would seem an obvious addition. However, he is apparently more keen to try for a 10,000m place and then run another city marathon in the autumn. For McColgan, thank goodness, the only marathon that matters now is Atlanta.



Digging for victory... McColgan heading for her first London win. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

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Guardian Crossword No 20,633

Set by Crispa



"I am old-fashioned. I think kids should have part-time jobs at his age, but there are none around here. He could probably get work up in town, but we couldn't afford to get him there."

Across

- No longer is this a habit for regretting (9)
- Honour a member's appeal (5)
- Making clothing for men in India, one's after a breather (5)
- Taken on and taken off without reason (9)
- Excludes professional writers (10)
- The men will show cold anger if sent back (4)
- University is of course for studying (7)
- Cut once it's badly affected (7)
- Fibres strikes (7)
- Money the painter left inside (7)
- A type of grass fly (4)
- A crafty invader — far from obtuse (5,5)
- Golf club's story as told by the founder (9)

Down

- Filed maybe when there's somebody wasting time (5)
- Flower material — but not for flower-arrangers! (5)
- Kept close for security reasons, tots creep around (3-5)

Down

- Opals may be reset here (5)
- Cheats on the 'hard worker' in agreement (9)
- Feature article about nippy little furry animal (10)
- Love dressing down in a manner of speaking (7)
- Careless shopper getting containers with holes in the bottom (7)
- Cuff cut short (4)
- He's always prepared to take part! (5)
- Policeman turning in buckled into supper — hearty! (9)

13 Check ladies' organisation and cause outrage (10)
14 Leisure should include exercise to develop self-control (9)
16 Not appropriate for the guerilla (9)
18 The church official wanting credit is relaxed about it (7)
19 Draw level? That's saucy! (7)
21 Wasteful buttress (5)
23 A winger may have some regrets (5)
24 American journalist found employment (4)

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 Operation 'stunt' by hearts appals age
 Inside

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